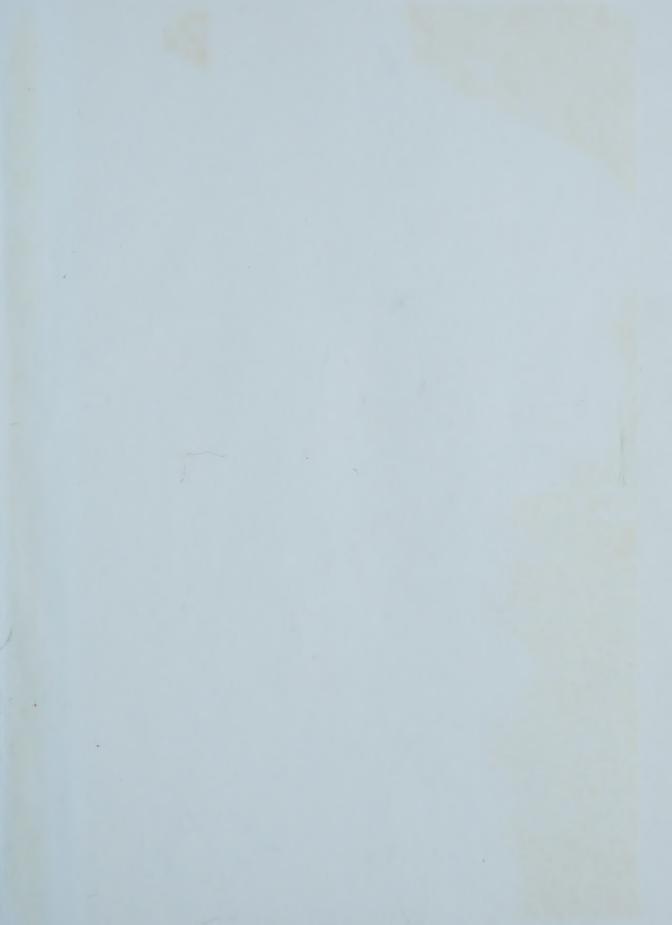


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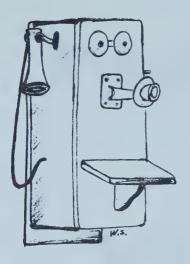


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A Patchwork of Memories



Published by
The Historical Society of Thorsby and District
1979



DEFINITIONS OF WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS IN BOOK

Setting the Sponge: A mixture of flour and water or potato water mixed with yeast and left overnight to raise and mix with flour for bread dough.

Adze or adz: An axlike tool with an arched blade at right angles to the handle, used for dressing wood.

Broadaxe: An axe with a wide, flat head and short handle.

Bucksaw: Wood-cutting saw, usually set in an H shaped frame.

Bennett-wagon or buggy: Wagon or buggy made from chassis of car and using the wheels. Vehicle came into usage in the Depression and called after R.B. Bennett.

Chivaree: A surprise gathering, with lots of noise, at the home of newlyweds very soon after their marriage. Flail: A manual threshing device to separate the grain from the straw.

Grubhoe: A heavy hoe for grubbing roots out of the ground.

Horse turds: Horse manure in a hardened or frozen state.

Holubchi: Cabbage rolls made from cabbage leaves

Lefsa: A very thin hard bread made by Norwegian

Pyrohy: A Ukrainian food. Made from thinly rolled dough filled with cottage cheese or mashed potatoes and cooked in boiling water.

Primost: Food made from whey.

Pitcher pump: A small pump used in shallow water supply, as a cistern under the house.

Skirl: Shrill sound made by a bagpipe.

Shanks Pony: Walking. Tilth: Cultivation of land. Two bits: A quarter or 25¢.

Pilze: A fur coat with the fur inside.

G.T.R.: Grand Trunk Railway.

C.N.T.: Canadian National Telecommunications

D.O.T.: Dept. of Transport

A.M.A.: Alberta Motor Association

P.M. Postmaster

M: Measurement for lumber meaning one thousand feet.

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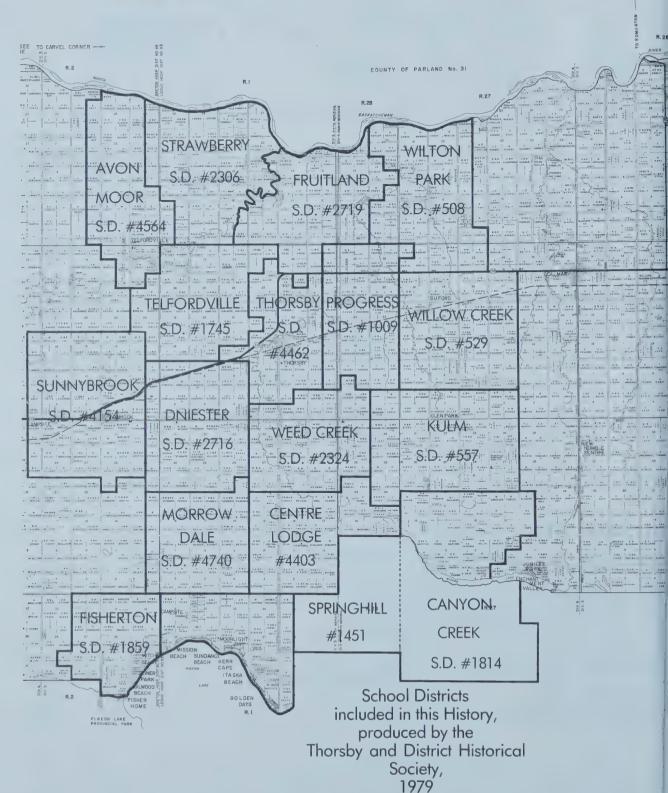
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TO THE READERS

Within the covers of this book, we, who have participated in the compiling of the true stories and historical accounts recorded herein, have endeavored in some small way, to pay tribute to the people who have made this district and surrounding areas the place we are proud to call our home.

Editorial staff of the Historical Society of Thorsby and District

COUNTY OF LEDUC NO. 25



HOW OUR BOOK WAS "BORN"

by Gwendolyn Ross

In 1975 Verna Scott contacted me (Gwendolyn Ross) about compiling a history book of this area. She had interviewed several pioneers and gathered some resource material. Together we interviewed a pioneer lady in Thorsby and recorded her memories on a cassette.

Lyle and Verna Scott then moved away from Thorsby to the Alsike district and she gave her material to me. In January 1978 she telephoned to suggest I apply for registration to attend the Regional History Workshop to be held in Edmonton on Jan. 27 and 28 at the Centennial Library, sponsored by Alberta Culture. I applied and was accepted, even though there was a limited registration.

The information and encouragement received there fired my enthusiasm afresh and I returned home determined to attempt such a project. Ella Schmidt and I then attended a workshop the Millet Historical Society held and learned more valuable facts about publishing a history book.

The Thorsby senior citizens made their Drop-In-Centre available for meetings and the first one was held in Feb. of 1978. Many interested in preserving local history attended and committees were elected.

They were: Editorial Committee, Beatrice Parker, Betty Anderson, Ella Schmidt, Donald Vath and myself; Finance Committee, Mike Mellik, Albert Van Alstyne, David Ross, Martha Knudson and John Terlesky as treasurer; Photograph Committee, Emma Gruninger, John Terlesky, Albert Van Alstyne and Alfred Sulz. David Ross later replaced Mr. Sulz. Shirley Radowits was elected secretary.

In order to qualify for a grant from New Horizons the group had to be backed by senior citizens and those who signed the society's application for registration under the Alberta Provincial Societies Act were John Terlesky, Mike Mellick, Adolf Besler, Rudolph Stein, Bertha Moeller and David Ross.

Mr. Ron Williams from New Horizons attended the second meeting which attracted 42 people. The Historical Society of Thorsby and District was registered on March 28, 1978.

To have money to begin our project two bake sales were held with over \$300.00 realized. Interest was keen. Ray and Betty Anderson donated the use of their basement rec. room for the committees to work in and Betty became a very able filing clerk. Meetings were held almost weekly in their home from June 1978 on.

All members of the society volunteered their time and talents towards the preparation of the book. Without the submission of personal histories there could be no book and we thank each and everyone for their contributions and interest.

Loretta Anderson Wonitoy who lives in Edmonton



Editorial Committee with one member Beatrice Parker absent L. to R. Standing Don Vath, Chris Knight Co-op Press representative. Seated Betty Anderson, Gwendolyn Ross, Shirley Radowits (secretary) and Ella Schmidt.



Finance committee L. to R. John Terlesky, treasurer, Albert VanAlstyne, David Ross and Martha Knudson. One member, Mike Mellick was absent. He was away on a holiday in Israel.



Mike Mellick, a member of the finance committee



E. Beatrice Parker



Volunteer typist Carole Strauss



Some of the women who sorted and captioned pictures for the book L. to R. Elsie Scheetz, Jean Kerr, Linda Sheetz, Martha Knudson, Bertha Moeller, Beatrice Parker and Hertha Ollenberg standing in centre.



Volunteer typists for book L. to R. standing Gwendolyn Ross, Natalie Stashko, Marlene Lyka, Kathy Bauder, seated. Virginia Deneve, Maryanne Wasyliw, Maxine Henry and Joyce Gaulter. Missing from photo is Sylvia Popik, Anna Wickstrom, Veona Zingel.



Picture committee with Don Vath, John Terelesky, Albert VanAlstyne and Dave Ross standing. Seated L. to R. Martha Knudson, Emma Gruninger and Gwendolyn Ross.



Volunteer proof readers L. to R. standing, Ione Gitzel, Treasa Ruff, Jane Hanas, Jenny Tomaszewski, Sophia Madiuk, Phyllis Madiuk, Anna Wickstrom, Martha Knudson, Ella Schmidt. Seated, Don Vath, Kay Keaschuk, Olga Chranowski, Margaret Campbell and Joyce Gaulter. Missing from group was Beatrice Parker who also prepared all maps for the book.



Committee working on the Military pictures for the book with two helpers missing from photo. L. to R. Algot Dahlbeck, his wife Geneive Dahlbeck, Albert VanAlstyne, David and Joyce Gaulter absent.

spent countless hours obtaining information for the book through research in the Provincial Archives and other sources in Edmonton. Loretta has also worked as a typist, proof reader and any other capacity she could to assist.

Beatrice Parker prepared all of the maps used in the book. Loretta and John obtained names of first homesteaders and map outlines and other information at the Provincial Archives and Govt. Map Division.

Typists who spent hundreds of volunteer hours typing histories were Sylvia Popik, Natalie Knull, Maxine Henry, Kathy Bauder, Carole Strauss, Maryann Wasyliw, Marlene Lyka, Virginia Deneve, Joyce Gaulter and myself.

Beatrice and Shirley worked endless hours preparing extensive family trees for some of the

personal histories.

An equal amount of time was devoted to proof reading by many other volunteers. Kay Keaschuk, Sophia and Phyllis Madiuk, Joyce Gaulter, Jane Hanas, Ione Gitzel, Treasa Ruff, Jenny Tomaszewski, Olga Chranowski, Jean Kerr, Dr. and Mrs. C. Goetzinger, Anna Wickstrom, Martha Knudson and Margaret Campbell. Margaret has been always ready to provide information and assistance in any form.

The photograph committee were swamped with about 2000 pictures and volunteers were called in to help sort and caption them. Over a dozen people responded and spent many afternoons in the Ross home working with pictures. Hertha Ollenberg and Elsie Scheetz were very faithful volunteers and arrived at each session. Miss Shirley Ollenberg came too, equipped with her typewriter. Jean Kerr and Don Vath also worked in their homes in captioning pictures. John and Mary Terlesky spent at least as many hours in their home and sorted and captioned most of the pictures from their area of the book's coverage.

John, Albert and Don ran many errands on behalf of the society and delivered material to the printer. Shirley, a very capable secretary, was often called upon to assist others with their personal histories and contact people for information.

Sketches for the cover and title page were done by Robert MacRae and Catherine Kerr. Others were done by Inez Demuynck, Joyce Gaulter, Wilf Scheetz and Beatrice Parker.

Military pictures were prepared by Albert Van Alstyne, Mr. and Mrs. Algot Dahlbeck and David and Joyce Gaulter in the Gaulter home.

David Ross spent a lot of his time promoting the book to all he came in contact with, working with

pictures and helping in many ways.

Aerial photography was done by Les Bacsik, made possible with Ordan Kisser piloting his own plane over Thorsby. The society is grateful to Hardy Biener, Dough Vath of Edmonton, Harry Pichonsky, Les Bacsik and David Ross who all provided pictures for the book.

The society is indebted to the Glenbow



Mrs. Lorretta Wonitoy
Volunteer typist, proof reader and helper in general to editorial

Foundation of Calgary for picture reprinting. The Provincial Archives in Edmonton, New Horizons and Alberta Culture for their assistance in the publication of this book.

We apologize for erros, and there undoubtedly are some in a book of this size and scope. We hope all readers will enjoy it, as we the members of this society have enjoyed working on it.

The book received the name "Patchwork of Memories" from Mrs. Margaret Sieverston of Edmonton. Her entry was chosen in a contest to name the book in Sept. 1978.

Mr. Chris Knight of the Co-op Printers has rendered the society valuable assistance in the organization of the book.

A hearty Thank you is extended to everyone who helped in any way.

Gwendolyn A. Ross Editor in chief

EARLY MAN IN ALBERTA

by Ray Anderson

Stone tools and skeletal remains of early man dating back two million years have been unearthed in other parts of the world, but man was a late-comer to Alberta. He may have walked on our soil only some thirty-thousand years ago.

The general belief is that early man entered this continent from Asia via the Bering Land Bridge — a land mass which, in places, was 1300 miles wide. Early man's migration path from Alaska to the south covered all of the three western provinces, and we are fortunate that part of that migration path included Thorsby and district.

The oldest artifact found in Alberta to date, is one that is an estimated 11,000 years old. The oldest artifact in Thorsby area is approximately 9,000 years old. This artifact is a point, found north of Thorsby. Artifacts this age were used by a group classified as Paleo-Indian People. Next, at around 3000 B.C., were the Meso-Indian People. The more recent artifacts, dated around 600 A.D., are attributed to the Neo-Indian cultures.

Many Indian artifacts, found on the surface of the ground, have been recovered by collectors in the Thorsby area. Hammers, scrapers, axes, drills, projectile points, and agricultural tools are abundant in this area. Early man was very clever indeed, to have survived with only the materials he had to work with.

Upon reading this, one might question the lack of information on the arrowhead, that small, arrowshaped stone that many a farmer has picked up while working his fields. The arrowhead is mentioned, but in a more general term — the projectile point. Archaeologists are hesitant to classify an arrowhead as such, for there is no positive proof that the particular rock was used specifically on the tip of a shaft as an arrow. There could have been many other uses for a rock of that shape. As a result, arrowheads are classified as projectile points, along with other similarly shaped objects. The same sort of general classification is also often applied to axes and dog-hobbles.

At one time in this area, tipi rings were visible. A tipi ring was a circle of stone from 14 feet to 40 feet in diameter, and was used to hold a tent or wigwam in place. The smaller, 14 foot rings, are thought to be the oldest, for dogs were used to carry the tents, and couldn't carry too much weight. As the Indian acquired horses and travois, the size of the tents increased, and 40 foot tents were then used. In this way, the size of the tipi ring determines the age of the ring. Due to the coming of civilization and the widespread use of the plow, any existing tipi rings have been scattered and distributed to the point where none can be found.

The dating of artifacts is an important step in tracing the evolution of early man. Artifacts can be radio-carbon dated, and this method can give an approximate reading with a 100 year plus or minus accuracy.

An example of the classification of the different periods would be:

Folsom Points; Paleo-Indian, 11,000 years ago, or 9000 B.C.

Oxbow and McKeen Points; Meso-Indian, 4500 years ago, or 2500 B.C.

Besant and Avonlee Points; Neo-Indian, 2000 years ago.

Thorsby and district is rich in history, and Indian artifacts are here for the finding — be you an amateur or a professional.



NATURAL HISTORY OF THORSBY DISTRICT AND PIGEON LAKE

by Dr. G. Hutchinson

Because this country was settled in relatively recent times, it is often regarded as a 'new country'. But when you think of it, this land is as old as any other part of the earth. Oil and coal are left-overs from long ago oceans and ancient vegetation; drainage systems, deposits of rocks and gravel, and various soil formations were determined by the Ice Age; fossils of various kinds fill in many of the details of ages beyond our comprehension — but they happened here.

Probably the oldest pieces available here, are the rocks with marine life found occasionally in gravel beds, representing some 200 million years. The layers of leaves embedded in rock derived from volcanic ash, found at the water line of the North Saskatchewan River on the western border of the Genesee area tell of life some 600 millions of years. These leaves have been extensively studied and described in the Dominion Geological Survey Bulletin No. 13. Stone tools, arrow heads, pottery and other artifacts are being collected steadily and are best described in "An Introduction to the Archeology of Alberta, Canada: Proceedings No. 11, Denver Museum of Natural History". There are now several quite extensive local collections.

While there are evidences of insects with the Genesee leaves, and occasional pieces of dinosaur bone found in gravel, the next major evidence of life, and the earliest of the mammals are the leg bone of elephant and pieces of tooth of Mastodon found also in Strawberry Creek — from 40,000 to 100,000 years old

The earliest record of man in my knowledge of the local area is the skeleton of Bison Athabasca taken from the banks of the Strawberry Creek near Telfordville, identified as a species of 5000 years ago, and eaten by man. No tools were found but the team from the Research Council found their clues in the handling of the bones themselves. A thousand years before Abraham!

No doubt the nomadic hunting people who crossed the 'Land Bridge' over the Bering Strait following the Ice Age, found their way through this country once the vast waters of Lake Edmonton had drained away, and vegetation had been restored. But more discoveries and more study are required to learn the detail of that story. It is known however that the Blackfoot Nations traditionally occupied the territory up to the North Saskatchewan River, and that the Cree Nation traditionally settled around the Hudson's Bay, had moved steadily westward in the 17th and 18th Centuries equipped with new technology introduced by the Hudson's Bay — guns, steel traps and knives etc. The Alberta region was a meeting ground of contending forces resulting in a very mixed and scattered pattern of Indian cultures. Into this mixture came the Fur Trading Companies — the North West Co. and the Hudson's Bay Co. vying with each other in establishing stations up stream to get first chance at the best furs. The 'shortcut' eventually opened across country from Fort Edmonton to Fort Rocky Mountain House passed east of Pigeon Lake so the Thorsby District was not directly affected. No doubt there were traditional Indian trails linking the main lakes — Wabamun, Pigeon, Gull, Bear Lake — which did bring people through the district frequently.

Robert Rundle's Journals, 1840 to 1848, make frequent references to the Rocky Mountain House Trail, visits to Battle Lake, and in 1847 his first explorations to the west end of Pigeon Lake in the vicinity of 'Ward's old house' — evidence of some previous settlement. When he, with his native assistants chose Pigeon Lake as their site for an agricultural mission, one of the first chores was to cut a road out to join the Rocky Mountain House Road. The Reverend gentlemen Thomas Woolsey and Henry Bird Steinhauer travelled through the District 1855-7. John McDougall, recently married to Abbigail Steinhauer, led a honeymoon expedition to re-open the Pigeon Lake Mission in 1865, a mission that would remain active until 1906.

The Hudson's Bay Co. opened a winter post on Pigeon Lake near the entrance to present day Zeiner Park in 1868 and maintained it for several years. A succession of Methodist missionaries served the Mission until 1906, by which time the Indian peoples were settled on Reserves, and the country was filling with homesteaders and settlers, forming new communities and laying the foundations for Thorsby and District.





House built in 1909 south of Telfordville where people paid their taxes to Pioneer Municipality #490. Mr. Rose was secretary-treasurer. This picture was taken in 1978.

RURAL MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

By Albert VanAlstyne

In Alberta, before 1913, comparatively small rural areas were organized into what were called Local Improvement Districts. Each contained four to six townships governed by a council. They were referred to as L.I.D.'s. The more westerly of those within the area of what is now the County of Leduc were the L.I.D.'s 24 T. 4 and 25 T. 4 also 24 A5 and 25 A5. Parts of the former two became the Municipal District of Liberty #489 on Mar. 1, 1918 and the most of the latter two on Dec. 9, 1912 became the Municipal District of Pioneer #490.

Councillors of L.I.D. 24 T5 for the period 1909-'12 were, J. Elder, Millet; E. O'Mara, O'Mara P.O.; R. Cummings, Bonnie Glen; J. Dahl, Conjuring Creek and sec.-treas. S. Price of Conjuring Creek.

Councillors of L.I.D. 25 T4 for the same period were, P.O. Anderson, Calmar; Ilko Sereda, Glidehurst; C.J. Blomquist, Calmar; Ben Piggott, Calmar and sec.-treas. Olaf Melin, Calmar. Previous to 1909 Fred Wyss was sec.-treas.

Councillors of L.I.D. 24 A5 at this time were A. Ayers, Bonnie Glen; J. Gray, Fisher Home; Ole Valhood, Fisher Home; Dan Macaulay, Fisher Home and sec.-treas. R. Halladay, Bonnie Glen.

The formation of Local Improvement District 25 A5 was, along with others, authorized by an order-in-council of the Northwest Territorial Government in Regina, dated Feb. 23, 1904. The minutes of only one council meeting of the new L.I.D., previous to 1909, are at hand. The meeting was held on Mar. 26, 1906 at which councillors Mr. Woods, Charlie Moeller and Roy Grant were present. Woods was a doctor and later practised medicine in Leduc for many years. He had homesteaded, up valley from Telfordville in June of 1903.

Minutes of L.I.D. #25 A5 council meetings of 1909 to 1912 have, fortunately, been preserved in a

hard cover book. Councillors during that time in the 4 divisions were as follows: Division 1, W.J. Dent, 1909 - 1910; Walter Sahlstrom, 1911; Angus McDougal, 1912.

Division 2, D.C. Breton, part of 1909; Jim Van Alstyne, part of 1909 - 1912. Division 3, Charles Blackwood, 1909, part of 1910; Roy Grant part of 1910 to 1912. Division 4, Charles Moeller 1909; James Huggett, 1910 and 1911. W. Perlich, 1912. George McFarquhar was sec.-treas. during this time.

When the Municipal District of Liberty #489 was formed in 1918, the following were councillors: John Sturtz, Leduc; Ed Mulloy, Conjuring Creek; C. Lindgren, Buford; C. Blomquist, (Reeve) Calmar; I. Sereda, Leduc; A. Forster, Leduc; Sec.-treasurers were Olaf Melin, Mar. 1918 to April 1920. Jeremiah Lehane, April 1920 to Sept. 1939. H.J. Dufty Sept. 1939 to Dec. 1943.

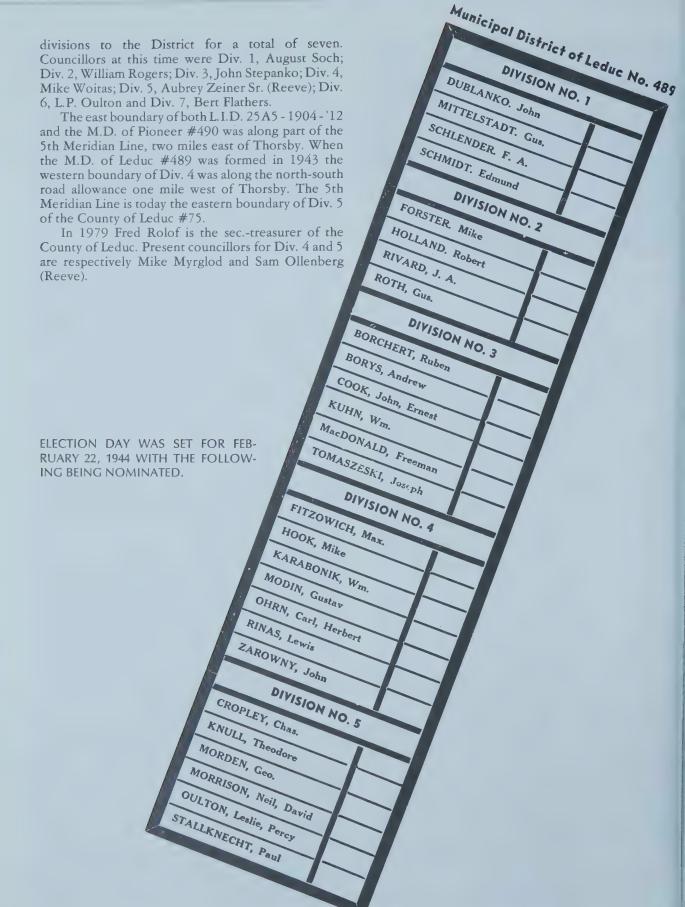
Councillors for the new Municipal District of Pioneer #490, in 1912 were Jesse Grindy, Telfordville; Alfred Stone, Stone's Corners; Roy Grant, Telfordville; Albin Benson, Stone's Corners and Jim Van Alstyne (Reeve) Telfordville. Later councillors in the eastern part of M.D. of Pioneer were Dugall McDonald; Mervin Munden; August Sahlstrom; Mike Mudry; Dmitro Sych; L.K. Cieslinski; Charles Stone; A.A. McLean; James Samson; George Morden; Mike Bittner; Ted Knull; George Hanson; E.A. Shilson; John Diercks and Matt Samardzic Sr.

Sec.-treasurers were George McFarquhar, Dec. 1912 to Jan. 1914. A.W. Scott, Jan. 1914 to Jan. 1918. W. Squance, Jan. 1918 to Mar. 1920. Basil Rose, Mar. 1920 to Mar. 1932. D.C. Breton, April 1932 to Aug. 1943. Basil Rose, Aug. 1934 to May 1935. Allan Saunders, May 1935 to Oct. 1935. Leo Rocque, Oct. 1935 to Sept. 1936. W.A. Bradbury, Sept. 1936 to Dec. 1943. He continued on with M.D. of Leduc and later County of Leduc until retirement June 30, 1973.

By Ministerial order of Dec. 6, 1943, the Municipal Districts of Blackmud #488, Liberty #489 and Pioneer #490 were amalgamated and formed the M.D. of Leduc #489.

Councillor candidates for the new District were: in Division 4, Max Fitzowich, Mike Hook; William Karbonik; Gustave Modin; Carl Herbert Ohrn; Louis Rinas and John Zarowny. In Division 5, Charles Cropley; Theodore Knull; George Morden; N.D. Morrison; L.P. Oulton and Paul Stalknecht. Elected returns showed the following elected, Louis Rinas in Division 4 and Theodore Knull in Div. 5. The following also elected were, Division 1, John Dublanko; Div. 2, Robert Holland and Div. 3, Reuben Borchert. T. Knull elected as Reeve. John Terlesky was elected councillor in Div. 4 from 1946 to 1952.

Effective Jan. 1, 1955 changes were made in divisional boundaries, as a result of the area west of Range 3 to the North Saskatchewan River becoming part of the M.D. of Leduc #75. This added two more



VILLAGE OF THORSBY





1979 aerial view of Thorsby looking north.



Aerial view of Thorsby about 1935.

The Town and The People



Main street of Thorsby looking south from C.P.R. station taken in early 1930's.



Thorsby Girl Guides, mid 1930's, with I. to r. Leader Leona Hankin, Helen Ohrn, Jewel Mealing, Lois Ohrn, June Rolston, Kathleen Hicks, Francis Connelly, Mary Arthur; Third row, Helen Lindberg, Vera Smith, Estelle Madiuk, Zeta Krukowski, Helen Mudry; Second row, Steffie Kinasewich, Verna Clark, Dorothy Hicks, Rose Meditsky, Ann Malanchuk, Elsie Becker; Front row, Leona Meditsky, Louise Faraschuk, and Ollie Kinasewich.



"The long and the short of it", Thorsby's (Big) Stan Ruff, 6 ft. 7 in. with Doc Hankin.



Looking north on Thorsby's main street, mid thirties.



Main street of Thorsby in 1932. Matt Samardzic's implement agency in background.



Thorsby "Tyros" float for parade, May 24th, 1951. Rev. Gerald M. Hutchinson Leader.



Saddle horses lined up for judging at the Thorsby Fair in 1938.



Thorsby Explorers Group — Bea Perley, Gladys Sparks, Lillian Bilar, Alice Hallan, Angie Radowitz, Sylvia Pyrch, Deanne Bradbury, Marie Hallan, Dianne Ryzicka, Doris and Irene Barager.



Bridge at Thorsby's northern outskirts during the flood of 1944.



Flash flood June 7, 1954. The rains were so heavy the dam built to hold Thorsby's water supply in the creek washed out and part of it caught in the bridge north of Thorsby.



Thorsby Parade.



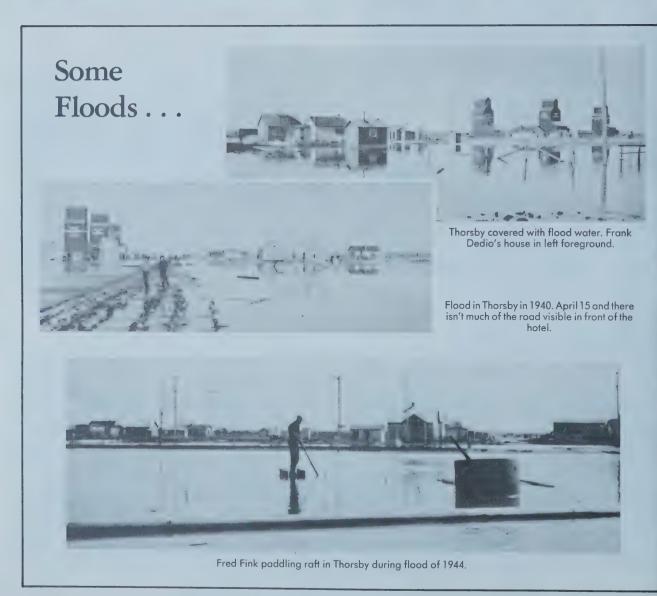
The collapse of Thorsby's first curling rink about 1942. Lumber from it was salvaged and used to build a better one. Lawrence Ruzicka organized the events to raise money to build the rink.



Thorsby Cubs.



Main street in Thorsby about 1940.





Eileen Van Alstyne Girl Guide (Thorsby Troop) 1942.



Thorsby Band.



Joe Dedio and Family.

Joe operated the first butcher shop in Thorsby —
1933.



Thorsby Junior Band with bandmaster Joe Babiak.



Thorsby, 1931-32

Bank of Montreal — Senetchko's Tea Room — M. Faraschuk's Pool Hall and Barber Shop. Lawrence Ruzicki and Dr. Hankin — other man unknown.



Boy Scouts and friends at Sylvan Lake — 1939 Left to right: Mr. G.R. Mealing - scoutmaster, Peter Kinasewich, Stanley Mealing, Peter Meditsky, Wasyl Malarchuk, Nick Faraschuk, Antonia Faraschuk, Louise Faraschuk, Lorne Ruzicka, Lawrence Ruzicka, Margaret Ruzicka and Billy Ruzicka.



Thorsby's main street 1938.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILROAD

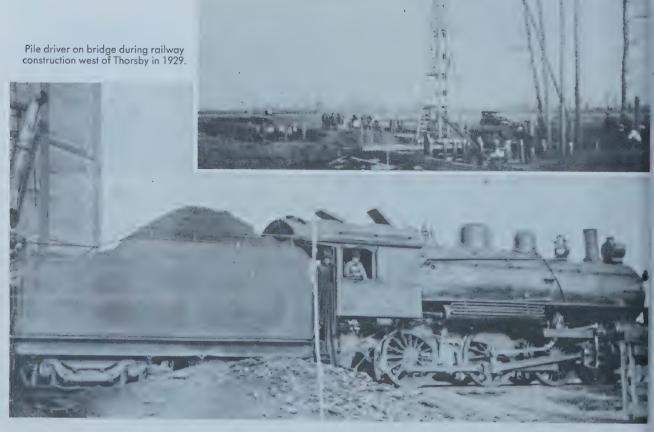
by Loretta Wonitov

In 1909, a group of farmers formed a company known as the Lacombe - Blindman Valley Electric Railway Company, With considerable financial assistance from the Alberta government in 1917, they constructed a railway from Lacombe to Bentley. This company's name was changed to Lacombe and North Western Railway Company in 1919, and the line was extended from Bentley to Rimbey. From 1920-1922 the railway was further extended from Rimbey to Hoadley, and in 1925-1926 this line was extended to Breton, In July 1929, the land was leased to Canadian Pacific Railway, who completed the branch to a connection with the Calgary-Edmonton line at Leduc. The section from Breton to Thorsby was opened on Nov. 25, 1929, while that between Thorsby and Leduc was opened on June 5, 1931.

The Canadian Pacific's public timetable dated May 15, 1930 shows the first train service to Thorsby. A daily train left Lacombe at 10:20 A.M. and, with a one-hour stopover in Breton, arrived in Thorsby at 9:30 P.M. - over 11 hours for the 92.7 mile trip! Returning, it left Thorsby at 10:15 P.M. and arrived in Breton at 11:20 P.M. The train stayed overnight, left Breton at 7:00 A.M. the next day, and arrived in Lacombe at 2:50 P.M.

information courtesy CPR Archives





THORSBY SCHOOL DISTRICT #4462

by Gwendolyn Ross

Excerpts from the Thorsby School District cash book for 1930 show, Oct. 1, 1930, Miss Leona Blades salary \$130.00 Mrs. Beulah Hale salary \$120.00.

From March 10, 1930 to June 30, salary for Miss M.E. McDonald for teaching was \$22.50, \$94.50, \$90.02, \$88.02, \$101.00, a total of \$396.04.

Auditor's report in 1932 showed, total receipts were \$8,240.09. Expenditures for 1932, \$8,240.09. Outstanding cheques \$55.00 and a bank balance of \$81.00. H. Delamater was auditor.

In 1933 Miss Joy Speer taught and received \$60.00 salary in Sept. Sept. 29 S.W. Hubbard received \$90.00. Mrs. S. Delamater taught and was paid \$15.00.

Taxes collected in 1931 were (current taxes).

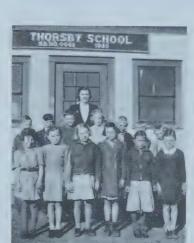
raxes concered in 1991 were (current taxes).	
United Grain Growers	\$225.00
Thorsby Traders Ltd	152.24
Alberta Wheat Pool	29.03
Beaver Lumber Co	\$105.00
C.N. Carroll	11.93
Chief Justice H. Harvey	21.38
Metro Babiak	26.50
R. Schaffrick	23.50
A.E. Babiak	26.50
L. Schoonover	39.50
Canadian Pacific Railways	\$22.50
A. Korpan (hotel)	185.17
William Zingel	4.05
Peter Miller	11.03
Steve Pasula	26.25
J. Madiuk	25.50
Joe Dedio	5.00
Dept. of Eduction	77.65
P. Patrick	56.00
George Meditsky	28.00
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Attendance record for Sept. 1932 of Mrs. Hale's room showed 21 teaching days. 44 students attended and percentage of attendance for the month was 91.66 Grade 1, class, Leona Meditsky, Elsie Nelesnic, Vera Smith, Margery Olstead, Robert Samardzic, Mary Arthur and Raymond Brod. Grade 2 class, Georgie Forshner, Nick Faraschuk, Alec Madiuk, Ina From. Grade 3, David Ruff, Lois Ohrn, Lois Powell, Muriel Forshner, Joyce Olstead, Eli Hegberg, Harold Hegberg, Elmer Knopp, Herbert Knopp, Edith Okert, Margaret From, Fred Samardzic, Mary Oneski, Edward Pasula, Matt Samarzic, Pauline Hankert and Henderson Burgess.

Grade 4 class, Glover Burgess, Velma Smith, Howard Knox, Gordon Hegberg, John Knopp, Philip Brod, Frances Pasula, Peter Meditsky and Ruth Okert. Grade 5, William Forshner, June Rolston, Helen Ohrn, Victor Pasula, Kenneth Delamater, Arthur Madiuk and Tommy Madiuk. In April of 1932 Winnie Kiteley started in grade I and her sister Evelyn commenced grade 3. In June Victor Miezel started grade I.



Thorsby High School girls, 1932, with teachers Miss Blades and Mrs. Hale. I. to r. Miss Blades, Margaret Diercks, Ann Fitzowich, Genevieve Powell, Lois Medisky, Rosie Jablonski, Ann Sendjiak, Frances Maduik, Evelyn Powell, Mrs. Hale.





Mr. & Mrs. G. Mealing and Ken Brown. Thorsby Elevator in Background, 1939.

Thorsby Grade 3 Class in 1941.
Front Row: Cecilia Lepine, Eileen Kuzio, Phyllis Madiuk, Cecilia Marcino, Natalie Mychalyshyn, Veona Hier. Back Row: Billy Ruzicka, Stanley Marcino, Joe Prytula, Jean Armour, Wilfred Alton, Wilfred Senetchko, Ronald Alton. Mary Arthur is looking through the window on the Left. Teacher: Miss M. Elniski.



Thorsby High School held in the United Church in 1941. Back row, Joe Radowits, Edmund Krukowski, Peter Kinaswich, Stanley Mealing, Wasyl Malarchuk, Owerti Pleysiuk, Lorimer Shilson, John Melnychuk, Roger Callaway, Bill Schram, Donald Ohrn, Walter Dunlop; Front, Mrs. Hartwell, teacher, Velma Smith, Frances Connolly, Rose Simkins, June Rolston, Freda Pleysiuk, Lydia Zutz, Zetta Krukowski, Elsie Becker, Vera Smith and Rose Schram.

Thorsby Aug. 28, 1937, a special meeting was held and attended by trustees of Progress, Fruitland, Dniester and Telfordville districts with regards to establishing a high school in Thorsby. Mr. Herb Ohrn of Progress gave an explanation of various points regarding the large unit district and high schools which is expected to be put through by Jan. 1, 1938 by the Dept. of Education. Mr. Ohrn and Ken Foy had been elected to interview the Dept. for special information about the high school. Other districts which have joined the Thorsby High School are Progress and Fruitland. Minutes were signed by Mrs. Frances Senetchko with John Rolston chairman. Mrs. Sentchko remained as secretary of the board for many years.

The mill rate that year was set at 17 mills. Teachers Miss Effie Davidson signed for \$840.00. G.R. Mealing for \$950.00 and K. Brown was paid \$1,000.00 in 1937. - 38 term. Steve Marlarchuk received \$15.00 that April as his pay for being janitor of the high school. The United Church was paid \$15.00 rent for the month of May, as it was used for a school.

March 9, 1938 excerpt from minutes: "It was moved by J. Rolston and sec. by Mrs. Hankin that secretary write to Mr. Ansley M.L.A. with regards to the large district unit. It was moved to pay the following bills, Harry Alton \$3.00 for coal. Thorsby High School \$200.00, Peter Gill \$3.15 for coal. Drugstore \$7.25 for supplies, Thorsby Traders \$4.65 for 1936 Christmas treats and H. Delamater for auditing \$10.00".

Thorsby Aug. 18, 1939. Special meeting held for purpose of discussing the assessment and levy the millrate.

The total valuation of assessment by the Municipal District of Pioneer is \$198,350.00. It was moved by Rolston and sec. by G. Meditsky that the tax rate mills be 20 mills which levies the total taxation to \$3,967.00.

The secretary was to mail all notices at once with allowances of 50% discount on all current taxes paid before Dec. 15, 1939. The school was using the Lutheran Church for a classroom and paying \$90.00 rent; also using the United Church for \$15.00 a month tent

April 4, 1940 meeting called to dicuss barn for the school. Moved by Frank Hoffman, sec. by T. Jablonski that the board be authorized to lease a piece of land 16x20 ft. from J. Rolston and build a barn 16x12x7 ft. Mr. Rolston was to interview the majority of ratepayers regarding a raise in teachers' salaries. May 15, 1940 special meeting to accept tenders for barn. Those received were Asa Clark \$170.00. Bd. accepted it. Teachers were to be notifed the vote for their raise was unfavorable.

If they felt they could receive a higher salary in a larger unit their resignation would be accepted. Secretary was to write Dist. Supt. of C.P.R. asking if it would be possible to get a load of cinders for the school grounds.

The mill rate was set at 20 mills for 1940 and new taxation and the assessment were discussed at a special meeting in Aug. 1940.

Dec. 9, 1940. One item of business, the secretary was to write Mrs. Lawrence Ruzicka requesting if she would consider the minimum salary of \$3 to \$3.50 a day for substitute teaching. Motion was moved and carried, to remove following taxes from the Tax Roll for 1940. Herb Reid \$28.71. Melvin Olstead \$118.96. Brown \$16.60. Alec Kerr \$4.15. E. Bauer \$6.24. H. Berezan \$80.88. and Panar's Store \$35.00.

Annual meeting Feb. 28, 1941. "Mrs. Simmons put forth motion sec. by Mrs. J. Bilar and in favor of all ratepayers present that immediate steps be taken with the Dept. to make some progress in collecting arrears in taxes, and, that two rooms be built onto the school which should be completed by Sept. 1941. George Meditsky was declared elected by acclamation as school trustee". That year the board spent \$8.80 for Christmas treats. In May of 1941 B. Zutz was hired as janitor of both schools for \$30.00 per annum for the high school and \$150.00 per annum for public school.

The following teachers were hired that fall. Miss Elniski for junior room at salary of \$900.00. Clyde Patterson for H.S. at \$1200.00 salary and Mr. G. Mealing was rehired for \$950.00 with a raise of \$100.00 given to him a few weeks later.

The mill rate for 1941 and '42was set at 21 mills. In a subsequent meeting on Sept. 22, 1941 an excerpt from minutes read. "Meeting was called for purpose of discussing teachers' salary, schedules, setting the mill rate and other business. After considerable discussion board came to the conclusion that it will not be necessary to sign the salary schedule agreement as it is distinctly understood that it is actually in force throughout the large unit districts. And we have been previously informed by the Dept. that our district will be in a large unit by the first of 1942."

VAL. PAILER'S ROLE AS TEACHER IN THE THORSBY SCHOOL SYSTEM

(September, 1942 to June 30, 1967) by Val. Pailer

I arrived in Thorsby from the Avon Moor School in the Telfordville District. I took over grades 5 to 9 in the fall of 1942. Pupil enrollment by grades was; grade 9-7 pupils, grade 8-10 pupils, grade 7-1 pupil, grade 6-12 pupils, and 5-9 pupils.

The following school term (1943-44) the grade load was reduced. Grades 7 to 9 were taught with a total enrollment of 38 pupils.

In the fall of 1944 a new school was ready for occupancy. Four teachers, namely Miss Frances Norris, Val. Pailer, Miss Ainslie Campbell, and Miss June Bradenburg, handled 128 pupils from grades 1 to 12.



Thorsby High — 1945-46.



A few of the Class of June 1942 Thorsby High School. L. to R. John Kunkel (who became a Lutheran minister), Edmund Krukowski (teacher), Mr. Clyde Patterson, Peter Medisky, Donald Ohrn, and Philip Melin.

The next 4 years, from 1944 to 1948, saw little change in the Thorsby Schools. In the fall of 1948 the new High School was completed and a new high school staff for grades 10 to 12 began. Apart from the regular academic subjects 2 new courses were introduced. In the basement of the newer two-room school Industrial Arts was offered to the boys, and girls were able to enroll in Home Economics. The basement in the two-room school was remodelled to accommodate the shop courses taught. Mr. Val Pailer was in charge of this department. Woodwork and Drafting were offered to grades 9 to 12. A few basic power tools and the necessary hand tools made up the equipment.

As the school system grew, more teachers were hired. Buses began to pick up students from the outlying areas. The Junior High including grades 7 to 9, became a separate unit with one teacher for each grade. By 1951. classes in the Junior High School began to take their daily school subjects from more than one teacher who usually was qualified in a particular subject. This subject-teacher participation resulted in better teaching and higher academic achievement.

In the spring of 1950, a memorable undertaking was experienced by the grade 8 and 9 class of that year. Val. Pailer undertook an excursion including 33 pupils, to Banff for a two-day round trip. Money for the occasion was raised by the students themselves.



New Two Room School Teaching Staff — 1944. From left to right, Miss Ainslie Campbell, Miss Frances Norris, Mr. Val Pailer, Miss June Bradenburg.



Grade 8 — Group of Thorsby students who went on trip to Banff — June 1950. Elaine Sparks, Edmond Marcino, Teddy Senetchko, Allan Hughs, Billy Hughs, Anne Chranowski, William Likar.

Grade 9 — Bobby Pearson, Robert Macdonald, Arthur Kivitt, Helmut Stellknecht, Tillie Wagner, Betty Pearson, Natalie Fedor, Jim Rolston, Frieda Gunsch, Joe Hosowski, Nancy Green, Helen Pihonsky, Charles Winslow, Tony Klien, Genevieve Pasula, Edward Rylander, Ruth Weidenroth, Marlene Kruger, Millie Mychalyshyn, Neil McAllister, Donald Macrae, Jean Drewnick, Irene Yanush, David Hankin, Frances Samardzic, Dorothy Dentman, Mr. Val Pailer.

From this fund expenses for the cost of the bus and accommodation at Banff were paid.

The group, including the bus driver Mr. Eddy Alton, Mrs. Mabel Pailer, and the school group left Thorsby at an early hour on a Saturday morning. First stop was at the Calgary Zoo on St. George's Island. The fact that only 2 of the students taking this trip had been to Banff before made everything very special.

Places of interest such as the Ghost River Dam, were stops made for eating lunches and picture taking. The group arrived at Banff in the early afternoon and were assigned their sleeping quarters on Tunnel Mountain. Mr. E. Alton was in charge of the boys and Mrs. Mabel Pailer tended the girls. Not much time was spent sleeping that night — most of the excited students spent the night exploring Tunnel Mountain and viewing the grandeur and wild life of the area.

Most of the next day was spent in the Banff Hot Springs. One of the restaurants in Banff made a special effort to make their meals appetizing to this young and eager group.

Soon it was time to return home. The long bus ride back to Thorsby was uneventful but everyone had a very enjoyable outing with 100% cooperation by all.

In the fall of 1960 another change took place in the Thorsby School make up. Mr. E. Raitz gave up the principalship to become School Superintendent for the Leduc County. John Woloshyn moved up to become principal and V. Pailer was appointed vice-principal.

During the next 3 years Mr. Pailer spent his teaching time in Industrial Arts, Typing, and grade 9 mathematics. In the spring of 1963 fire destroyed the interior of the Industrial Arts shop. That summer the shop was rebuilt and extended. Mr. Klammer took over the Industrial Arts section and V. Pailer returned to teach commercial subjects and mathematics, until the end of june, 1967. He moved into Leduc where he now resides.

In retrospect; he was always a staunch believer in the 3 R's, especially in grammar.

Short Grammar

Three little words vou often see Are articles — a. an. and the. A noun's the name for anything As school or garden, hoop or swing. Adjectives tell the kind of noun As great, small, pretty, white or brown. Instead of nouns the pronouns stand His head, her face, your arm, my hand. Verbs tell something to be done To read, count, laugh, sing, jump or run. How things are done, the adverbs tell As slowly, quickly, ill or well. Conjunctions join the words together As men or women, wind or weather. The preposition stands before The noun, as in or through the door. The interjection shows surprise As Oh! how pretty Ah! how wise! The Whole are called nine parts of speech Which reading, writing, speaking teach.

THORSBY SCHOOL

by Mr. Ed Raitz

The year 1947 marked the beginning of a new era in school administration for the Strawberry School Division No. 49 when the first centralized high school was established in Thorsby. The high school offered full academic program requirements for matriculation to students from the School Divison attendance area which at that time extended from Genesse to Winfield. Paul Brooks provided the first school bus transportation for students from the Warburg-Sunnybrook districts. The high school educational facilities comprised 2 rooms with temporary quarters for a second classroom in the Ukrainian Hall. Robert (Bob) Hood, principal of the school (1947-49), and Edward Raitz formed the senior high school staff during the 1947-48 school year. Rosa Walters joined the staff as a third member in



Thorsby High School — 1942-43.

Back Row L. to R. Peter Stashko, Earl Zeiner, Michael Tomaszewski, Stanley Tomaszewski, Jack Griffin, Mike Schram, John Kunkel; Ivor Hoyem, Joe Radowits, Pete Meditsky, Bill Kuzio, Steve Klimosko. 2nd Row L. to R. Mary Arthur, Helen Lindberg, Leona Meditsky, Olive Shilson, Bob Samardzic. Front Row L. to R. Eileen Van Alstyne, Zetta Krukowski. Elsie Becker. Estelle Madiuk.

September, 1948, when the three-room senior high school opened. This new facility included the first auditorium-gymnasium built in the Strawberry School Division.

Two more classrooms were added in wings in 1949, with space in the basement area for a laboratory and business education classes. In that year Ed Raitz. became principal and remained until 1959.

In 1957, the high school moved to a new facility located on a 10 acre site west of the old highway. This school included a large home economics room, science laboratory, library, shop and a large gymnasium-auditorium with a stage. The new building became a junior-senior high school and the 3 buildings on the old site formed the elementary school.

Centralization caused the closure of many of the small schools in the surrounding districts creating a large school enrollment in Thorsby. By 1959, compared to a staff of 5 teachers for grades 1 to 12 in 1946, there was a full compliment of 19 teachers.



Education Week at the High School — early 1960's. Left to right, Stan Zurek, Ruby Kvarnberg, Ernest Kvarnberg, Mr. & Mr Kvarnberg Sr. Seated, Joe Koperski.

Following the recommendation of the Coterminous Boundaries Commission the Leduc School Division was formed. The new school division closely followed the lines of the Leduc Municipal District. Head offices for the division was changed to Leduc from Thorsby in February, 1956, the transfer being authorized in October the previous year.



Thorsby School 1945-46.

THORSBY SCHOOL HISTORY

By John Woloshyn

When I joined the Thorsby teaching staff in 1953, there were 3 buildings. The first school was constructed in 1930. It is now used, after considerable modernization, by the senior citizens of Thorsby and district.

The second building, a four-room school, was added in 1944. It is now used as the Action Centre, where various activities are held.

The first high school with classrooms upstairs and downstairs was built in 1947-48. It had a gymnasium and a music room as well as 5 classrooms. This building is still in use for grades 1 to 3. Enrollment kept increasing and a new building was again required.

A large parcel of land was purchased and a Junior and Senior High School was opened in January 1958. Because the 1930 and 1944 schools were getting old, a new elementary building was added in 1969.



Staff of Thorsby School in the 50's.

Standing L. to R. — Miss Yadlowsky, Miss Audrey Blondheim, Mrs.

Olga Chranowski, Mr. Wm. Moysa, Ed Raitz, Mrs. Mavis Hamilton,

Miss Aronson. Sitting L. to R. — Mr. Spaner, Miss Jones, and Val Pailer.

Enrollment kept climbing until it stabilized at the present level between 450 and 500 pupils.

A Short History of the Thorsby School District #4462

- 1. District established in 1929 by absorbing Progress, Telfordville, Dniester, Weed Creek and Fruitland. A two-room school was built in 1930.
- 2. The new four-room school became the next addition to growing community. Actually the new high school was formed in July 1937 with Mr. G.R. Mealing as principal. He left in 1941.

3. Strawberry School Division #49 was formed in January 1942 with offices in the village of Thorsby.

- 4. Mr. Lehman became principal when the four-room school was built in 1944. He continued until 1947.
- 5. When the new high school was constructed in 1947-48, Mr. W.R. Hood became principal until 1950. He was followed as principal by Mr. E. Raitz up to 1959.
- 6. After the construction of the new Junior and Senior High School in 1958, Mr. John Woloshyn assumed principalship from 1959 to 1977, when he retired.
- 7. The superintendents during this period were Mr. J. Scoffield, Mr. C. Pyrch, Mr. E. Hodgson, Mr. J. Finlay, Mr. C. Pyrch, and Mr. E. Raitz.

RECOLLECTION OF JOHN ROLSTON POSTMASTER OF THORSBY

As told to Gwendolyn Ross in January 1976

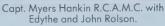
I visited Mr. Rolston in his home in Thorsby and taped this interview with him.

John Rolston was shingling the north side of the roof of his building in late October of 1929 when the steel was laid to Thorsby for the railroad. The track reached just past where the station would be and a Y was built in it so the train could turn around and return to Lacombe. There were several large sawmills around Breton and the railroad had been laid to that hamlet previously so that trains came from Lacombe and hauled freight. It was known as the Blindman Valley line.

The train arrived in Thorsby on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The engine was coaled up that evening and the next morning it headed back towards Lacombe. In 1930 the track was completed into Leduc, linking the west country up with Edmonton.

Mr. Rolston camped out in Thorsby while getting his building ready. His wife and daughter remained in Leduc until the 2 room building was finished enough for them to move into. He recalled that the rough 2x4's were covered over on the inside with building paper. It was later his warehouse, and he added onto the original three times to make a comfortable







Original Rolston building with post office on left and store in middle with living quarters on right.

residence and place of business out of it. Its original size was 30 x 42 ft.

At that time the tiny hamlet consisted of very low, wet muskeg land covered with willows. The Forshner family built a restaurant and rooming house across the road (later to be a street) from his domain. While he was shingling his roof a man came up and talked to Nick Senetchko in Ukrainian for a few minutes. After he departed John asked what the conversation had been about and Senetchko said the man, Mr. Korpan, was going to build a hardware store on the corner just north of Rolston. The building turned out to be a hotel and was later sold to Ed Kelly for about \$8,000.00.

John opened his store on Nov. 1, 1929 and just before Christmas the C.P.R. sent a land agent up from Calgary to inform the new residents their lots were worth \$300.00. The C.P.R. had bought the land from L. Schoonover and had it surveyed into lots.

Some of the early business men were Jack Coleman who had worked on C.P.R. contracts as a carpenter. He remained in Thorsby to build many of the new buildings that had to be put up. The Bank of Montreal opened with Frederick Weir Davis as manager. Lawrence Ruzicka came from Killam to manage the new Beaver Lumber business and acquaintances of his from Killam came to the new site to work. They were Vic Johnson, a carpenter, and H. Delameter who opened the Imperial Oil agency.

Joe and Frank Dedio opened their butcher shop. Joe Hoffman and Matt Samardzic built the Thorsby Traders Store but Samardzic soon left that partnership to open his International Harvester Implement shop and took over the Imperial Oil agency shortly afterwards.

Jack Coleman built a water tank near the Weed Creek for the C.P.R. but the water wasn't suitable for steam so the tank was sold and torn down. The lumber was used by Jack Arthur to build a hall on the site just back of where Samardzic's I.H. business is located in 1979.

The first livery stable in Thorsby was operated by a Mr. Waldon. Alex Riddock owned a trucking service and Ed Alton drove for him. Later on Alan McDonald acquired the trucking service; also built a flour mill and operated it as well. The mill was situated west of the cheese factory.

John Rolston received his appointment as postmaster for Thorsby on Jan. 21, 1930 at a salary of \$35.00 a year. The mail at first was hauled in from Calmar by Andy Blomquist. After the railroad was completed it came from Edmonton by train 3 times a week. He was also appointed Justice of the Peace and Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, holding these offices for 35 years.

In the store business a lot of trading was involved. Farmers would cut tamarac rails during the winters and he allowed them 20¢ apiece on groceries they needed. Butter was traded by farm wives at a price of 10¢ a lb. and eggs at 6¢ a dozen. The eggs had to be candled and he recalled some of them had chick embryos in them when candled. He was an agent for Mapleleaf Flour and got it by a carload. The flour in 50 and 100 lb. bags along with 20 lb. sacks of rolled oats and cream of wheat porridge was hauled for him by Ed Alton. Prices of flour were \$3.15 for a cwt. He also handled Royal Household brand flour. A 20 lb. bag of sugar sold for \$1.35 and bread was 10¢ a loaf or 3/25¢. He supplied Kopang's store at Warburg and the St. Francis Store with flour and sold 2 carloads of mixed flour a year.

A pair of men's G.W.G. bib overalls sold for \$1.65 and a pair of men's leather work boots were \$2.50. A work shirt sold for \$1.35.

Walter Perley came to the Calmar Creamery about the same time Rolstons arrived in Thorsby and Perley said Rolston's Pioneer Store was his first retail customer for creamery butter. It sold for 30¢ a lb.

The store carried a lot of credit during the depression but most of it was paid off in later years. John recalled one female customer he had, who bought herself a new car later on. When he reminded

her about the debt she owed him for groceries and supplies she wrote him a letter stating her feelings. He told me the letter was a priceless souvenir to him in his retirement. She had written that she would repay him slowly, like she had made the bill, but never did keep her promise.

In the 30's the residents of Thorsby found many forms of recreation in their spare time. A baseball team was formed with some excellent players. They played against teams from other centres and won lots of games. A tennis court was laid out in the section of town that A. Dornan's property occupies in 1979. A Girl Guides association was active and there was a Boy Scout troop.

Mrs. Edythe Rolston was a music teacher and always had from 20 to 25 students for piano lessons at 50¢ a lesson. She taught up to grade 6 level. When Lukianchuks came into town he organized a band. The band flourished and had many members with a lot of support from men of the Morrowdale district. Jimmy Rolston and Norman Lowe played first cornet.

John Rolston was on the Thorsby school board for many years serving as chairman.

In 1941 there were 3 stores in Thorsby, his Pioneer Store, Simpkins General Store and Thorsby Traders, owned by Hoffmans. The next year, 1942 the Postal Dept. expanded the post office and he closed his store out. The Bank of Montreal then moved into the former store premises of his building.

Joe LaRose ran movies in the hall that he had bought (the hall built from the C.P.R. water tank lumber) and there were dances in it. Later John Powlik built a theatre with offices on both sides of it.

After Mr. Lukianchuk left, John took over as bandmaster playing clarinet. However, when Jimmy Rolston left to attend university and Norman Lowe moved away, there were no first cornet players and the band could not continue without them. It folded up shortly.

Mrs. Rolston died in 1954. The women of the Community League, of which she had been a member, set up a memorial scholarship in her honor. It is the Edythe Rolston Memorial Scholarship, and is awarded to a grade 12 student in Thorsby High School with the



Thorsby Brass Band with John Rolston conducting about 1953 at Thorsby Sports Day.



Picnicing at Pigeon Lake. L. to R. John Rolston, Mrs. Backstrom, Mrs. Rolston, Alma Alenius, Mrs. Hankin, Doug Alenius.

highest average each year.

June, their daughter had married Howard Ellsworth and moved to the U.S.A. Jimmy pursued a career in the business world after graduating from the U. of A. and John was alone.

When he reached retirement age in 1958 the town tendered him a Testimonial Banquet which was attended by a huge crowd of friends, business associates and former customers. From then on he spent a lot of time travelling and visited many different countries including a trip around the world.

As the years advanced he arranged to spend the winters in warmer climates but always returned to his modest home in Thorsby to spend the summers and to enjoy a leisurely time at his cottage on Pigeon Lake.

He was a man of wide interests and one could spend a very interesting afternoon visiting with him. He had numerous slides of the fascinating places he had visited on his travels and was always happy to show them to others.

Mr. Rolston passed away on Nov. 5, 1978 aged 85 years.

OUR POST OFFICE

by Phyllis Madiuk

John Lewis Jones Rolston began his career as the first postmaster in the hamlet of Thorsby on January 21st, 1930. His first means of transporting mail to and from the train station was a two-wheeled push-cart. As the trains in those days weren't too concerned about schedules, either he or his assistant would be seen tearing down the road after hearing the train whistle. Otherwise, they would have to wait for hours for the train to arrive.

The post office, store and telephone exchange were all in one building located on what is now MacLeod's store property. Maude Barager DeCoursey was the first assistant and was trained for all 3 jobs. As time progressed, the Rolston store was phased out, with the Bank of Montreal locating in the store half, and the post office and telephone exchange in the other half. The assistants then worked both as post office assistants and telephone operators. As the



Mr. John Rolston, Thorsby's first Postmaster and one of its leading

hamlet grew, the exchange and post office were separated and each office had its own staff.

Maude Barager DeCoursey worked until the early forties and then Mary Arthur Ohrn took over for a short time. My sister Estelle Madiuk Wickstrom became the assistant and for part of her 7 years, took her turn in running the hundred-vard dash after the on-coming train whistle blew. Cecilia Marcino Holt became her successor in 1950, but her career as an assistant was short lived, as she preferred married life and moved away. On October 1, 1951, I became Mr. Rolston's fifth and last assistant. For several years he was a man whom I feared. There's an old saying, "A picture says a thousand words." Well, one look from Mr. Rolston As I matured, that fear changed to respect and especially after his retirement, we became good friends. He travelled extensively and quite often I'd receive a post card or souvenir from different parts of the continent. When he was going to Cuba, he asked me what I'd like him to bring me, I said "A Cuban of course," and he did — a picture of Castro. Said he was sorry but that was the best he could do.

I remember one of many incidents that happened with John Ellsworth, Mr. Rolston's grandson (who was staying with the Rolstons as was June, his mother, while his father, Howard was in Korea) wanted me to read a comic book to him. After repeatedly telling him that I was busy and couldn't read to him, this 4 year old was not convinced. He took a pair of scissors and snipped the back of my sweater up about 4 inches, while I was waiting on a customer at the wicket. Needless to say, I didn't see John for a whole week and I never did see the comic book again.

During my time in the post office, I witnessed several changes. Mail was no longer brought by push-cart. George Hakes had the dray business and he did the honors. Then in the early sixties, the mail was brought in by truck from Lacombe or Edmonton. Postage was 8¢ first class for out of town I think and 6¢ for local letters. Letters are still cancelled with the same hammer, except now our stamping table is twice the size. I learned to keep my fingers out of the way of the hammer very quickly as I never forgot the pain and blood-blister I'd had on the tip of my finger.

The mail boxes used to have a combination lock

and a little window above the combination for the customer's convenience. This presented a problem as different members of families wouldn't know or didn't remember the combination, so we would have to open the boxes from the back. Then boxes with locks and keys were put in and we have them today, as well as the problem of people forgetting their keys.

As the hamlet kept growing, so did the business in the post office. We needed more help at Christmas so we could sort and dispatch the mail at a reasonable hour. Casual helpers were hired and to my recollection, Alma Phillips and Genevieve Pasula Hanas were on staff. Then Doreen MacKenzie, a young bride who hailed from Leduc, whose husband Arnold was manager for Calgary Power here, became our first part-time assistant. Doreen had worked in the Leduc post office prior to moving to Thorsby so needed no introduction to the job. Several years later, Doreen took leave to start a family so Audrey Kolesar took her place.

Mr. Rolston retired on January 21, 1959, so I was acting postmistress for 5 months until Stanley Tomaszewski became postmaster on May 15, 1959.

In 1965 we moved into our new building across the street which was on property owned by Mr. C.M. Hale. Audrey and her husband John decided to move to greener pastures so Doreen MacKenzie once again became our part-time assistant, a position she still holds today, working a total of 20 hours a week.

With the hamlet growing continuously and with the hours of duty changed we needed additional help so more casual helpers were hired at Christmas and vacation time. Those hired over the years were; Doreen Hostyn, Sophie Madiuk, Edward Tomaszewski, Jean Konwicki, Barbara Oatway, Shirley Snider and our present casual, Isabel Bychyk.

Andrew Olaf Blomquist goes back in history as a mail carrier even before Thorsby became a hamlet, but he became our rural route 1 and 2 carrier in 1930. Andy was a quiet man who had a heart of gold and a love for White Owl cigars. I had known him when he was one of our milk customers when I lived on the farm, so we were no strangers when I came to work at the post office. His means of transportation was a buggy in summer and a cutter in winter, both pulled by a strawberry roan and a chestnut team. He was very proud of his team and kept them well-groomed. He later invested in a ½ ton truck to travel in.

His rural route 2, to the best of my knowledge, was 8 miles south, 2 miles east to Gordon Green's corner and south to the Mulhurst post office. Then east to Mulhurst, north to Ackerman's corner, west back to Green's corner again, north on the Meridian to the town line, west to Kison's corner and into town. These people he served every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

His route 1 consisted of: south to the Ukrainian Catholic church corner, east to Maryka's corner, south to the next corner and east to the Glen Park post office. Continuing east to Billy Olson's corner, north



Post Office Staff — Doreen MacKenzie, Stan Tomaszewski, Phyllis Maduik and John Rolston, at presentation of Phyllis' 25 year pin and certificate.

to Pete Karabonik's corner, west to Ankerstein's corner and north to Highway 39. Continuing on 39 to Smith's corner and on to Telfordville post office, around all the curves in the Telfordville district and back past the post office, past the Bruno Kirchner garage and south to John Wocholz corner, east to the Co-op corner and into town. These patrons were served Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

In 1957, the Texaco Exploration Gas Plant was established east of Mulhurst, so mail increased on route 2 to 6 days a week. Andy stayed with R.R. 2 and hired Mr. F.J. VanAlstyne to travel R.R.1. Mr. Van Alstyne was Andy's right hand man until 1964, when Andy gave up the contract. John Pasowesty, who bought some land 2 miles east of town and erected a house on it, took over. He later sold his property to Joe Barsi. In 1969 Joe Barsi became Thorsby's R.R. 1 carrier. During Joe's years as a carrier both Glen Park and Telfordville offices were closed. Most of the east end of R.R. 1 and Glen Park patrons were served from Calmar and Telfordville patrons became R.R. 1.

Mr. Barsi was unable to serve R.R. 1 properly because of health problems, so Junie Dolling delivered his mail for several years, as did the Reverend Alwyn Coleman. In 1977 Mildred Schram became our official R.R. 1 carrier and is still happily serving patrons from north of Telfordville to Mission Beach on Pigeon Lake, her farthest point south.

Martha Knudsen became our next mail carrier on June 15th, 1966. She very efficiently served the growing rural population for 7 years. Upon her retirement Glenna Bateman, in 1973, became her

successor and is still serving all the patrons of her route.

I'm still working here at the post office and personally, I can't think of a better place to work. Stan is an excellent boss, and a more kind and considerate person than Doreen would be hard to find.

THORSBY & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Written by Gus Bendoritis, sec.-treas.

The Thorsby & District Chamber of Commerce officially received its title on March 7, 1960. Formerly it was known as the Thorsby Board of Trade.

During a general meeting on March 7, 1960 Sal Acampora moved the name be changed, seconded by Stan Hoffman. Elections were held for new offices in the Chamber of Commerce. They consisted of: President, A. (Ed) Besler, Vice-president, Steve Keaschuk, Secretary, Gene Wakaruk, Board of Directors, Walter Melnyk, Frank Hoffman, John Bilar and Art Kushnyriuk.

From the beginning the members of the chamber exercised endless hours of voluntary work and decision towards the community such as: sports facilities and administration, formulating methods of bringing natural gas to the community, heading Christmas and New Year's festivities for children and adults, inviting new businesses into the community and investment in county and municipal parks. A few early members of the chamber were: Ed Alton, Ray Anderson, Tony Lefsrud, Stan and Frank Hoffman, Arnold Mackenzie, Walter Melnyk, John Bilar, John Woloshyn, Stan Tomaszewski, John Powlik, Stan Zurek and Adam Chranowski. There were also many other very dedicated people.

Presently the Chamber of Commerce is involved in the proposed major facility and swimming pool designated for Thorsby.

As in the past the chamber is working very closely together with all other associations of the community to make it a pleasant and most friendly area to live in.

The 1979 Thorsby and District Chamber of



Thorsby business men and women in 1979 standing in front of the Community Centre.



Thorsby Rural Fire Protection Association Ltd.
Standing in front of the new pumper truck are (left to right) Richard Hoffman, captain; John Terlesky, treasurer of the Thorsby Rural Fire Protection Association; Ed Alton, Thorsby Firechief; Jim Begalke and Vernon Bernes, village employees. The truck on the right belongs to the Village of Thorsby which also has the use of the two newer ones owned by the Rural Association.

Commerce is very active with fifteen paid up members.

The present executive consists of: President, Bob Taylor, Vice-president, Vern Muth, Secretarytreasurer, Gus Bendoritis, Directors, Orest Senio, Stan Hoffman and Stanley D. Tomaszewski.

THORSBY RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

by Norman Bittner

The first information and general interest meeting was held on March 30, 1960. It was prompted by the loss of Ray Pearson's barn through a fire. Ted Bilar acted as chairman with David Gitzel then elected chairman, Norman Bittner secretary and Walter Perley treasurer. Other original members were Ed Alton, John Weiting, Walter and Harry Nacuk, Art Schmidek, Manuel Bilou, Albert Snider, Sam Patrick, William Ruff, Arnold Krueger, Don Ohrn, Albert VanAlstyne and Vernon Stein.

William MacKay from the Fire Commissioner's office and Mr. Nordon from Co-op Activities Association attended the meeting. Mr. Norton informed the group that shares could be sold at \$50.00 each and that non member fire calls could cost \$200.00 per call plus \$40.00 an hour. Hamlets initially were to buy one full share, and residences within them

were to be assessed one half share. Albert Van Alstyne contacted Telfordville. Bruce Morden and Bill Bilou contacted Sunnybrook, Don Ohrn contacted Glen Park and Bob Pearson contacted Buford.

By the end of 1962 twelve memberships were sold and by 1963 the association had 72 members.

The first fire engine was purchased in June 1963 from Saskatoon Fire Engine Co. Ltd. for a total cost of



John Terlesky, Treasurer, handing the keys of the new pumper unit to the Fire Chief, Ed Alton.



Thorsby Fire Truck in 1962.

\$12,234.00. Payment was made from selling shares, a grant from the County and a grant from the village of Thorsby. The remaining \$2500 was borrowed from the Bank of Montreal in Thorsby.

Mayors of Thorsby during the years 1960 to 63 who represented the village during the organizing years were; John Powlik and Adam Chranowski. Ed Alton was the first fire chief and still holds that position.

The fire engine is housed by the village and all expenses are equally shared with the Rural Co-op Volunteer firemen from Thorsby who respond to all calls. For these services Thorsby has the use of the Fire engine if necessary to assist their own fire engine.

Many rural members took part in several lessons on how to man the fire engine but rarely have been called to assist.

The organization's second fire engine was bought in 1976 for a total cost of \$37,355.00. The original engine was then sold to the village of Thorsby.

In 1978 the Rural Co-op bought another fire engine from Superior Emergency Equipment Ltd. for \$34,000.00. It arrived in February of 1979. It complements the main fire engine in that it is capable of carrying more water.

In the cab of the main fire engine is a member card system containing location and directions of each member's farm in case of fire.

The first fire call came from the Pigeon Lake Youth Camp on August 3, 1963.

Art Schmidek succeeded David Gitzel as president. The present executive are: president Berwyn Pederson, vice-chairman is Walter Kuzio, secretary is Ernest Jablonski and treasurer is John Terlesky who has done a fine job with his capable wife Mary to assist him.

THORSBY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

submitted by Harry Pichonsky

For a number of years a concern was expressed that an organization was needed that would have the interests of rural and urban needs, an organization that would have government backing to meet these concerns. A number of people worked energetically to get a minimum of 50 members, a requirement for a charter, and application was made for a charter. On Nov. 5, 1974, the Thorsby Agricultural Society received its charter with 132 members.

The original executive consisted of: president Harry Pichonsky, 1st Vice-Pres. Arnold Krueger, 2nd Vice-Pres. Sam Kobeluck, Sec.-Treas. Steve Klimosko. Board members consisted of Vern Muth, Richard Hoffman, Peter Borys, Hans Wengberg, Gary Kirwan, Henry Zingle, Roger Zingle, Orest Senio and Alex Radowits.

The Society has been very active organizing the annual Agricultural Fair held in conjunction with the Thorsby Sports Day. As well a number of socials and money raising ventures have been carried out both alone and with other community organizations.

The Society has also organized a very active 4-H Club and sponsored rural interest seminars.

One of the objectives of the Society was to construct a facility that would permit indoor agricultural activities. Working with all the community organizations in the Thorsby district, plans are under way to construct a multi-purpose structure that would house a swimming pool, arena, curling ice, cultural and meeting rooms.

This facility will be of great benefit to both the rural and urban community and would provide a place for a variety of activities that were not available before.



CANADA'S LARGEST FIRE MUTUAL

W. S. Armstrong

Notary Public . Legal Conveyancing Lands & Insurance

Thorsby, - Alta.

uct. 22nd. 1940.

A. W. Hughes, Esq., Sxcty-Treas. Telfordville, Alta.

Dear Albert:-

Please pin this endorsement to the other policy and when Dec. comes around we can fix up a new application for the whole thing together.

Lome time when you are not too busy

you can write me out a chaque.

very truly yours,





WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

William Armstrong, who hailed from Scotland, was the second real estate agent in Thorsby.

He lived in a home on 48 St. and 50 Ave. He was a great lover of animals, and besides his pet cat and squirrel, he will long be remembered for his "de-scented" skunk.

One could tell Mr. Armstrong was a very easy-going man, by reading the letters he sent out to his customers.

He sold the real estate business to Dan MacRae and moved to Sydney, B.C. He lived there with his sister until his death in 1962 at the age of 72.

Thorsby's first magistrate, Mr. Young, Lawrence Ruzicka, Wm. Armstrong.

THE JOHN ARTHUR FAMILY

In 1930 the John Arthur family left Central Butte, Saskatchewan for Alberta. Travelling in one car were Jack and Gladys, Mrs. Arthur Sr., Gladys's son Walter (10 years), Mary (4), Ruth (2), and Bruce, a two-month old infant. Gladys's oldest son Bud Boddy, who was then the responsible age of 12, followed with a hired man in a truck. Somewhere along the way the Arthur car overturned and family and belongings, although unharmed, were scattered, causing a mild interruption in the journey. Bruce slept peacefully in his blanket.



Jack Arthur with his team and son Bruce sitting in front.

Their first home in Thorsby was a house on Railroad Avenue, immediately west of the present Bank of Montreal building. The site now occupied by the bank was the location of a hall. There Bud and Walt began their Thorsby schooling. Thorsby's first school was being built when the Arthurs arrived. The railroad had just come to Thorsby, and in 1930 the village consisted of a hotel, drug store, lumber yard, garage, Mr. Rolston's premises — store and post office, a few homes, and the 3 grain elevators.

Mr. Arthur operated a dray business and soon the children were involved in the business of delivering milk about the community. To the younger ones the long walk to deliver a pint of milk to Mr. J.B. Olsen, at



Mrs. Gladys Arthur and her mother.

the Pioneer Elevator, was a frightening experience. On a dark fall night those elevators loomed above the horizon in a forbidding fashion. Later Mr. Arthur was responsible for the building of Thorsby's first theatre and curling rink. A fond memory to many was the arrival of Mr. LaRose to show a movie. For a while, and with great pride, Mr. Arthur owned a Diamond T truck and many were the loads of lumber it carried. Among early Thorsby memories the Arthur children have, are mounds of sandwiches and mouth-watering cakes and cookies which Mrs. Arthur had prepared and were waiting to be bagged for a dance in the hall. About 1932, the Arthur home was moved by a team of horses to its new location south east of main street.

There seemed to be nothing Mrs. Arthur couldn't do. Aside from the early hardships of little water, no central heating, and no electricity the first years, necessitating scrubbing clothes on a board (a job which took a whole day), she saw that her family ate very well and the outfits she created at her sewing machine were a great joy to the family. She milked cows, raised chickens, made quilts, filled cracks in green lumber which were their floors, and then proceeded to stain and grain and varnish the wood. She was always active and interested in community projects and the work of the United Church, its Sunday School, and the Ladies' Aid, (later named the W.A., and still later the United Church Women). For several years Mrs. Arthur kept boarders, too. Like the other women of the time she showed great industry, resourcefulness, and love of home and family.

In 1939 Joan was born in the Burgess hospital, delivered by Dr. Hankin. At this time Mrs. Arthur's mother, Mrs. Williams, was living with the Arthurs. World War II began and both Bud and Walt joined the services. Now the Red Cross became another interest and letters and parcels were regularly sent overseas.

In 1950 the Arthur home burned to the ground. For a year the Arthurs operated a restaurant, again near where the present Bank of Montreal stands. Later that building was moved to Buck Creek to be used as a pool hall. Mr. Arthur died there on Dec. 22, 1957.

For a short time, Mrs. Arthur worked for the Y.W.C.A. in Edmonton. She was housemother for Delta Upsilon Fraternity and was presented with an honorary membership in tribute to her contribution. Mrs. Arthur moved to Langley, B.C. and in 1968 married Walter Ross of White Rock, B.C. She and Walter had a trip to the British Isles, to Walter's birthplace in Scotland, and to Mrs. Ross's parents' birthplace, Wales. The Rosses moved to Edmonton in 1973, and on May 5, 1978, following a long illness, Mrs. Ross died.

Her children remain. Bud married Margaret Rud. Their 1 daughter, Karen, is Mrs. Brian Gillard. They and their 2 children, Rochelle and Steven, live in Calgary. Walt married Joan Milner. They have 6 children: Trevor, Brent, Warren, fifteen-year old twins Cameron and Christopher, and twelve-year old Jeffrey, all of Edmonton. Mary married Ralph Ohrn.

Their children are: Douglas, presently studying at Utah State University, Susan, a dental hygienist, and Jocelyn, at home in Edmonton. Ruth married Danny Gibson. Their home is in Jauai, and their son, Robin, lives in Papua, New Guinea. Bruce married Nina Marquez Suarez of Caracas, Venezuela, and manages a Royal Bank in Caracas. They have 2 children, Jill and Jack. Joan is Mrs. Darol Fonteyne. They and their 3 children, Graham, Cara, and Colin, make their home in Calgary.

SAM ADAMIC'S STORY

by Dorothy Adamic

Sam Adamic was born on the family farm at Buford to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Adamic on Feb. 14, 1918. He grew up on this farm and now owns it. Sam attended school at Willow Creek, afterwards staying home and helping his father farm the land.

In 1938 Sam spent the winter working in British Columbia coal mines, then returned to the farm until 1941, when he spent a short time in the army. After this he kept the home farm going until 1951, then went into the trucking business and stayed with it until

Sam moved into the village of Thorsby in 1952 and conducted his business from there. In 1971 he entered the sanitation business which he still operates.

In Mar. 1968, Sam married Miss Dorothy Roberts. formerly of England, and a daughter Stephanie Clare was born in May 1969.



Sam and Alex Adamic with their dog Poppy — Apr. 13, 1936



Sam and Dorothy Adamic with their daughter Stephanie in 1978.

ALBERTA LIOUOR STORE

as told to L. Wonitoy by John Chura and Vivian Powlik

In the winter of 1959, construction began on the Alberta Liquor Store in Thorsby. In February of 1960 the store, the first of its kind in Thorsby, was opened. Previous to the opening, the nearest available outlet for liquor was the Thorsby Hotel — and that liquor was beer only! Mr. John Chura came to Thorsby from Leduc, to manage the new store, and remains in that position to this day. Mr. Chura ran a one-man store, hiring only occasional help, until July of 1960 when Steve Adamic joined the staff.

Transient business, such as Pigeon Lake traffic, accounts for a lot of the business at Thorsby's liquor

In August of 1974, Mrs. Vivian Powlik hired on as part-time staff — the one and only woman employee of the A.L.C.B. in Thorsby. In January 1975, the liquor store underwent extensive remodelling, and was converted from the old style of store where tickets were written for liquor, to its present self-service style.

At present, the liquor store employs 2 full-time staff - John Chura and Fred Kuzio, and 2 part-time workers — Jean Hamula and Vivian Powlik.

ALBERTA GOVERNMENT TELEPHONES

by Loretta Wonitoy

The first directory listing for Thorsby appears in the Edmonton and District book for July 1930. Before this, Thorsby subscribers were connected through

S S S San a La Control V V

Day Service

EXCHANGE SUBSCRIBERS

- 7 Bank of Montreal 4 Beaver Lumber (Northern) Ltd
- 12 Breton D C General Store
- 9 Carroll & Delameter Real Est and Ins 5 Hoffman & Samaidzie
- 8 Mudry Lumber Co
- Pioneoc Grain Co Ltd
- 13 Thorsby Cafe
- 6 Thorsby Garage
- 11 Thorsby Hotei A Korpan 3 United Grain Growers Ltd
- 10 Zingel Fred Gen Store

RURAL SUBSCRIBERS

- 104 Breton D C-Telfordville
- 265 Breton L D-Telfordville
- 204 Canfield A B -Telfordville
- 206 Dunlop H.S.—Telfordville 102 Grant E R.—Telfordville 110 Kellto 1.—Telfordville
- R
- R
- 105 Monason Frank O-Telfordville 112 Movan C H-Telfordville 103 Mun Dist of Figneer-Telfordville R
- 113 Paley S—Telfordville 107 Port View School-Telfordville R
- 106 Rac William-Telfordville
- 114 Trollope E-Telfordville



First Thorsby Alberta Government Telephone office located on left side of building which belonged to John Rolston. This building also housed the first Thorsby Post Office.

Conjuring Creek and later Telfordville. The first resident of Thorsby with a phone appears to have been August Sahlstrom, whose number — R905 — appeared in the AGT Northern Division directory for January, 1918 under Conjuring Creek.

The A.G.T. opened an exchange in Thorsby in December, 1929. During the depression, the operation of rural lines was taken over by 2 mutual telephone companies — the Thorsby West MTC and Warburg — Sunnybrook MTC.

Rates varied with the number of subscribers on the exchange. A business phone was \$3.00 a month, residence phone \$2.00, and a rural phone \$2.25. However, when the mutuals took over the rural lines, they set their own rates.

The telephone office was located in the Pioneer Store. Mrs. Edith Rolston was appointed as agent for Thorsby in 1929, and served until 1954 when Mrs. Elizabeth Hlus took over from her. Mrs. Hlus was agent until 1955 when Mrs. Elsie Erickson was appointed. She held that position until 1965 when Mrs. Gladys Hancher became the new agent. The office was converted to automatic dialing on May 19, 1968, and all rural lines were converted to buried cable.

- information courtesy AGT Archives



THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL

information complied by Loretta Wonitoy

In Alberta in 1919, the first Canadian Wheat Board was paying the farmer \$2.21 a bushel for wheat. The Board was suspended in 1920 and trade in wheat returned to the speculative system. As a result, the price per bushel fell steadily until wheat was 65¢ a bushel in 1923.

On Aug. 3, 1923 a meeting of grain farmers was held in Calgary, and at this meeting a resolution was passed, calling for the organization of a Wheat Pool in Alberta. A charter was obtained under the Alberta Cooperative Act on August 17, 1923 and the official name was the Alberta Cooperative Wheat Producers Ltd. In 1929, the Alberta Wheat Pool Act was passed and the name Alberta Wheat Pool was born.

Having no elevators of its own, the Wheat Pool contracted United Grain Growers and the Alberta Pacific Grain Co. to handle the deliveries of "Pool Wheat", and other companies soon followed suit. About 34,000,000 bushels were handled between Oct. 29, 1923 and July 31, 1924. The payment was \$1.01, basis 1 Northern at Fort William, and administrative costs were ½¢ per bushel.

The Pool's first elevator in Thorsby was a 39,000 bushel capacity structure built in 1929 by Voss Bros. In 1940, a 35,000 bushel balloon annex was added by F.W. McDougall Construction Co. Alberta Pool commissioned Apex Seed and Feed Plant Construction Ltd. to build a 70,000 bushel elevator in 1968. At the time of this construction, the balloon annex was dismantled, and the original elevator was twinned to the new one.

A seed and fertilizer warehouse was erected in 1948 and a bulk fertilizer warehouse was built in 1977. In 1978, a 30,000 gallon anhydrous ammonia tank was installed ½ mile east of town.

From 1932 to 1977, the Pool elevator in Thorsby handled 7,071,952 bushels of grain. The highest handling year was 1976-77 at 606,756 bushels, while the lowest volume was 3,796 bushels in 1954-66.

The first Alberta Wheat Pool delegate from this district (#5) was N.S. Smith of Olds in 1925. The present delegate is Clarence H. Rasmussen of Wetaskiwin who has served from 1976 to time of writing.

Pool elevator managers in Thorsby have been:
C.A. Downie Sept. 18/29 to Apr. 26/35
T. Jablonski Apr. 26/35 to Mar. 1/36
G.E. Martin Mar. 1/36 to May 17/37
D.C. MacRae May/37 to Feb. 2/48
P.A. Stewart Feb. 2/48 to Mar. 8/48
C.C. Mitchell Mar. 8/48 to Feb. 14/57
L.E. Johnson Feb. 21/57 to Nov. 1/58
L.G. Montpetit Nov. 1/58 to Feb. 10/61
A.W. Badheim Feb. 10/61 to Oct. 1/63
W.E. Sauve Nov. 1/63 to Sept. 16;/68
D.J. Oatway Sept. 16/68 to present.

RAY AND BETTY ANDERSON

by the Anderson's

Ray Hilaire Anderson was born in Everett, Washington, the fourth child of Charles and Marie (St. Hilaire) Anderson. When he was a small boy, Ray and his family moved to a farm near Hardisty, Alberta.

Ray received his education at Fullview School. He left Hardisty in 1937 and worked in garages as a mechanic and welder at Metiskow and Amisk, and later at Burrows Motors and Greyhound in Edmonton. He also drove a bus for the Blue Goose Bus line.

Elizabeth, the second child of Peter and Katherine (Lorenz) Gramlick, was born south of Macklin, Sask. A young brother and sister died before she started school at the Gramlick School (on her father's quarter section) and a couple of years later, her mother passed away. Peter and Elizabeth moved into Macklin to live with Peter's mother and his 2 sisters. Elizabeth



First home of Ray and Betty Anderson after the war, which was 8 x 16 feet. They came to Thorsby with it.

received the rest of her education in Macklin.

The Depression hit, and, while jobs for men were scarce, opportunities for girls were even scarcer. So, Elizabeth moved to Edmonton and there acquired the name Betty. An aunt who was doing private nursing in the city found a job for Betty, and so began the long hours of housework in large homes. Betty worked from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M., and sometimes longer, for \$15 a month. She was always looking to improve her wages and quality of life, and soon began a job housekeeping for another family for \$20 a month. This part of Betty's life could be good material for an 'Upstairs, Downstairs' type of book.

Betty then went to Hardisty hospital where she worked as a nursing aide for \$20 a month. The wages were the same as her old job, but the hours were a little shorter. Her next step was to Provost where she worked at her aunt and uncle's 5¢ to \$1.00 store. It was here that she learned the buying-selling trade. She then went to Rosemary, Alberta where she helped

another aunt and uncle.

It was while Betty was in Hardisty that she met Ray.

Ray entered the services in the spring of 1942. He took his basic training in Camrose, and then went to Barriefield, Kingston, Ont. for his advanced training. He suggested that Betty come to Kingston and they get married. On June 26, 1943, they began their married life together. Betty got a job at Loblaws in Kingston, and made the grand wage of \$22 a week. As the wife of a soldier, she also received \$60.20 per month.

Ray was a driving instructor on semi-trailers, and was sent overseas only when the big push was put forward to end the war. As soon as the European war was over, Ray volunteered for the Pacific war. He was sent home at once and, as soon as his leave was over, he was to go to the U.S.A. for further training in jungle warfare. But, happily, the war ended.

Ray was then sent to Wetaskiwin to wait for his discharge. While he was there, he decided to refresh his welding skills with an excellent welder by the name of Mr. Lentz. He received his discharge just before Christmas, 1945.

In the spring of 1946, Ray, Art Creamer (an army friend) and Phillip Pickard (another employee of Mr. Lentz) decided to look for a place to start up a business. Mr. Ben Burland, an employee of Calgary Power (which served the Thorsby area) suggested to them that Thorsby seemed to be a very busy town.

So, we decided to move to Thorsby. We bought an 8 by 16 foot homemade house trailer, which was not a



Ray Anderson family. Back L. to R. Betty, Ray. Seated Loretta and husband Bob Wonitoy holding their children Melanie and Ryan, 1979

common home at that time. We bought a lot from Mr. Collinson just west of the cheese factory. Two years later, we built a 16 by 24 foot house (without a basement) on the same spot, and sold the trailer.

By now, we had decided to add a daughter to complete our little home, so Loretta joined the family in 1953. This ended Betty's career. She had been working for Thorsby Traders (Ternoways) and later Modern Food (Lefsruds).

Around this time, Thorsby was putting in water and sewer and it was cheaper for us to buy a new lot than to get the utilities installed in our present home. So, we moved our house and put it on a basement. In 1958, we built a V.L.A. home on 3 acres of land in the M.D. of Leduc. We were later annexed into the town of Thorsby.

Music was always a part of our lives. Loretta, after starting grade school, wanted to learn to play the accordion, so we drove her to Calmar for lessons, as did several other parents in the area. Mrs. Hale and I decided to ask teachers of the George School of Music based in Wetaskiwin to come to Thorsby. They agreed to come if enough students could be found. There was no trouble finding students, so for 6 years, the music school used our home as their base in Thorsby. There were 5 teachers teaching all instruments.

Loretta played and sang for many weddings in Thorsby and district. She played the guitar for folk masses in the Catholic Church in Thorsby, and often travelled with Father Blanch to play the organ for masses and weddings in St. Francis and Breton.

Loretta had the honor of playing for Klondike Kate in Edmonton during Klondike Days in 1972, and now she entertains in nursing homes in Edmonton during Klondike Days and for special occasions throughout the year.

Loretta graduated from Thorsby High School and, after teaching music in Edmonton for 1 year, attended Camrose Lutheran College as a music major for 2 years. She married Bob Wonitoy of Camrose, and they have made us proud grandparents, for they have a son Ryan, and a daughter Melanie. Bob is a journeyman electrician, and won many awards at NAIT while working towards his certificate.

Once more, our home seems to be an essential part of the community, as we have let the Thorsby and District Historical Society use our basement for meetings.

We have always loved the outdoors, and we enjoy fishing and lapidary. We also collect Indian artifacts, and love camping. Our camping sojourns have taken us from a small tent to our modern holiday trailer in the last 30 years. We hope someday to camp across our great country and the U.S.A. Please don't run out of gas, Canada!

LESLIE BACSIK

At the age of 17, Leslie left his family and home in Budapest, Hungary. He arrived in Quebec City on June 6, 1956. Leslie decided to go to Alberta mainly because the mountains were close, and he enjoyed skiing. Upon his arrival in Edmonton, Leslie recalls having less than \$2.00 in his possession.

Through the immigration office, Leslie received employment on the Mike Fodor farm in Warburg, where he worked the following fall and winter, mostly in exchange for room and board. Friends and acquaintances, particularly Harry Pichonsky, helped Leslie acquire his basic English literacy.

While in Hungary, at the age of 13, Leslie began his electrical career and later earned his Journeyman's Electrical Certificate. He obtained employment with Stan Tomaszewski, owner of Thorsby Electric, and worked with the firm until 1973. In order to meet with Canadian Electrical standards, Leslie repeated his four-year apprenticeship program. He achieved his Master's Electrical Certificate, and the following year, established his own business in Thorsby, namely Bacsik Electric.

Leslie married Irene Kilik, of Thorsby, in 1961. They have 3 children; Bernice, 16; Gerald, 13; and youngest Colin, aged 1. The Bacsik family has made their home in Thorsby. They enjoy the outdoors, camping, and travelling.



L. to R. Bernice, Irene, holding Colin, Gerald and Les Bacsik.

THE BANK OF MONTREAL

by Loretta Wonitoy

The first Bank of Montreal in Thorsby, opened on December 27, 1929, was located in the restaurant owned by Les Forshner. It was managed by Fred W. Davis who remained as manager until 1935. The bank remained in that location until larger, more suitable premises became available the following year. At that time the bank moved into the Rolston Block, which 12 years later became the village office. The bank then moved into what had previously been the Pioneer Store and later became the post office and telephone exchange.

Continuing demand for banking service made it necessary for the bank to find larger quarters and, in 1949, the office was opened in the Hoffman block. Finally, in 1968, the bank moved into its present



Opening of new Bank of Montreal in Thorsby Oct. 5, 1968. Former bank managers and Ernie George, manager at that time. Back row L. to R. Pete Peterson, Ed Bowering and George Andrews.

quarters, the spacious new building at the corner of 50th Avenue and Hankin Street.

In 1958, the Bank of Montreal service in the district was expanded by the opening of the Warburg

office, and it remains a sub-agency today.

The Bank of Montreal began with a staff of 2 in a make-shift office. Keeping pace with the growth of Thorsby, and the consequent increase in banking needs, the bank moved into larger and larger buildings, and its staff grew from its original 2 in 1929, to 9 in 1954, and finally to its present 13 full-time employees.

Managers of the Thorsby branch of the Bank of

Montreal have been:

1929-35 Fred W. Davis
1935-40 O.J. Simmons
1940-47 E.O. Pederson
1947-63 Edgar A. Bowering
1963-66 G.W. Andrews
1966-73 E.E. George
1973-present E.G. Leigh

— information courtesy of Bank of Montreal Archives

THE WALTER J. BENSEN FAMILY

By Barbara Bensen

Wally Bensen, his wife Barbara and their son Randal, came to Thorsby in the fall of 1965, to start a new venture. The venture meant a business, and that September the United Farmers of Alberta bulk gas agency opened with Wally the agent.



U.F.A. Co-op premises of Wally Bensen.

Previous to coming to Thorsby Wally had been in the oil fields, and needless to say, that involved a lot of travelling around so they wanted to settle down in one spot.

Wally was raised in northern Alberta and Barb grew up in Saskatchewan, both on farms. He has 1 sister Mary (Mrs. Sam Patrick) here at Thorsby and 1 brother in Red Deer. Barbara has no sisters nor brothers, and her parents live in Saskatchewan.

After settling in Thorsby a baby daughter joined their family. On March 10th, 1967 Crystal was born. Three years later a baby boy, Dana, was born on March 19, 1970 and finally a third son Jason was born on October 9, 1973.

Over the years the children have grown and now Randal is in university in Edmonton and presently (1979) is a student intern. He graduated from Thorsby High School in 1974, was tops in his class and was awarded the Alberta Hotelmens' Scholarship. He will receive his M.D. in 1980.

Crystal is in grade 6 in Thorsby Upper Elementary School. Dana is in grade 3 and Jason is in kindergarten.

Wally and Barb keep busy with their business and family and each summer she raises a huge garden.



Randal Bensen



Bensen children, Crystal, Dana and Jason in 1978.



JOHN BILAR STORY

by Ted Bilar

After 15 years experience as a mechanic in Edmonton and Mundare, John Bilar decided to start a business of his own. Through a recommendation from Mr. McKenzie of Motor Car Supply in Edmonton, and the investigation of other possibilities, Thorsby was chosen as the location to establish a place of business.

John Bilar bought a garage from Gordon Knox in Thorsby in 1937. In 1938 the garage was rebuilt. An addition was added in 1940. The last rennovation took

place in 1952.



Remodelling Bilar's Garage on Thorsby's main street — 1938 or 39.

John Bilar moved from Mundare, Alta to Thorsby on Dec. 21, 1937. John's wife Marie and their 4 children followed on Jan. 12, 1938.

The Dodge Chrysler dealership was granted in 1938. Mr. Rudo! Stein was Mr. Bilar's first customer. Aubrey Zeiner bought the first truck and the first car was purchased by Peter Wyllie.

Ted Bilar took over the management of Bilar's

Garage in 1958.

The J. Bilar's purchased a house from Mr. Knox at the same time as the garage was purchased. This house has been home for the Bilar family up to this time.

John and Marie Bilar have enjoyed good health through the years. Marie is active in the Senior Citizen's Club and the U.C.W. of the United Church. She was a member of the Ladies Community League and of a sewing club at one time. John was active in the Chamber of Commerce, is the President of the Thorsby and District Community Centre and the Secretary of the Senior Citizen's Club.

Marie's home is a showplace of beautiful house plants. Vegetables and flower gardening take up much of her time. In addition to this, cooking, making quilts and pillows, leaves her with very little spare time. She does enjoy her weekly game of bridge and always has time for tea with her neighbors and friends.

John was interested in, and did paint at one time. Whenever time permits John is reading, or challenges his friends to a game of crib or chess. John has been, and is at this time a keen goose and duck hunter.



The John Bilar family, their children and grandchildren, at their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

The Bilars have 3 daughters; Joyce Mjolsness of Coronation, Alberta; Lillian Fedoruk of Vernon, B.C.; and Evelyn Carter of Victoria, B.C.; one son, Ted Bilar of Thorsby. Nine grandchildren add their own personalities to make an amiable family.

CLARENCE AND LINDA BITTNER AND FAMILY

by Clarence Bittner

The first 13 years of my life were spent on a farm, 5½ miles from Hay Lakes. The farm was located right next to the Big Hay Lake. I played alto horn in the Hay Lakes band, which went to the Ponoka Stampede and the Edmonton Exhibition. In 1961 my parents bought the Pearson farm near Genesee and we rented another quarter as well. I took my grades 7 and 8 at Genesee and completed my schooling at Warburg. I worked at several different jobs before attending the University of Alberta.

Linda Bilou (daughter of William Bilou) and I were married on October 27, 1967. Linda attended Sunnybrook school from grades 1 to 9. After graduating from Warburg High School, she worked in Edmonton as a typist. After my third year of university, we moved out to the Sunnybrook district, where we lived with Linda's father, while I taught at Warburg High. Later we rented a farm house and a few acres of land from Russell Harrison, 2 miles north of Sunnybrook. Linda worked at the Bank of Montreal in Thorsby.

Paula, our first daughter, was born October 6, 1974. In the summer of 1976 we built our house in Thorsby. I took a one year leave of absence from my teaching position and resigned one year later in 1977, and began a career in carpentry. Kimberly, our second daughter, was born on February 17, 1978.

FREDERICK AND LEOKADIA BRIER

by Linda Brier Kisser

Frederick, the only son of Johan and Juliana (Kutzner) Brier, was born in Alexandrow, Poland on March 11, 1889. Being the only son, he was privileged to have a good education; choosing whatever profession he preferred. Like many youngsters he did not really know which profession he wanted, so he tried several. He tried medicine, theology, education, and later settled for business.

Frederick and Leokadia were married on Feb. 12, 1912. Little did Lea Schultz know that she would capture the affection of this young man when she attended, along with her parents, a church service where the congregation gathered from several villages. Having heard that her father owned several acres of timber, Frederick took 2 friends along and pretended he wanted to buy timber. When her father refused to sell any, Frederick then "dealt" for their daughter. A couple of visits and the arrangements were made between her parents and Frederick. Lea had very little say about her marriage.

Lea grew up as a hard working girl. She was the eldest daughter of Karl and Bertha (Achter) Schultz, born on Dec. 15, 1893 in the village of Budy Porajske (Poraiske) Poland. Being the eldest of a family of 11, she had to keep house, babysit, cook, wash clothes on a washboard, feed cattle, plus work on the fields. At the age of 8, she stood over the wash tub, scrubbing



Passport picture of Frederick and Lea Brier in 1928, with daughters Bertha and Linda.

the heavy homemade linen clothes on a metal washboard. Soap was homemade. Flax was grown and then home-manufactured into linen which was then woven into clothes. Lea had little opportunity to go to school but took up classes whenever time permitted.

Frederick was 22 and Lea was 18 at the time of their marriage. Lea's parents were prosperous; and as a wedding gift, she received 15 acres of land and several head of cattle. There were no buildings on this land so the next step was to erect a home. Frederick left for Germany to work on contract to earn extra money. He took 50 to 60 men with him and he was their manager. He worked on the Ems Canal near

Osnabruck. He also operated bakeries. The young couple were married in Feb. and Frederick left in Mar., not to return again until the following fall. Lea was left with the building and management of the property. She hired 5 to 6 men and, along with the help of her brothers, erected a house. Building took several years as all work was done by hand. The timber was so huge that 1 log built their house. Federick and Lea prospered.

W.W.I. was raging and the Briers lived through many bitter experiences. Their home became the center for police and army officers. Frederick and Lea provided them with food and lodging. This proved to be lucky for the surrounding villagers. When the army was ordered to gather up all the cattle and other possessions for their own use, it meant starvation for the people. Frederick, using his charm and wit, was able to retrieve all the possessions. Lea would cook up a good meal and Frederick would treat the commanding officers to plenty of whiskey and when their stomachs were satisfied and their spirits were high from the whiskey, he would quickly untie the cattle for his waiting neighbors to take home. After the war the Briers saved many lives by smuggling food. Frederick would pretend to be visiting relatives in order to get past the guards. He would load up his horse-drawn wagon with food and other necessities and return at night. A bottle of whiskey in hand, he would treat the guards and when they felt high, he would slip away unchecked. Lea would distribute the



Lea Brier at her spinning wheel, made by her stepfather in the early 1930's, now a treasured possession of her daughter Linda.

food and other goods in her home while Frederick went back for more. Frederick and Lea nursed many people back to health. Frederick held pastoral services, burial services, was a Justice of the Peace, taught Sunday School, and assisted as a school teacher. Their business was the operation of a grocery store, which Lea managed most of the time. Later, they operated a creamery, had a fruit orchard, and grew grain.

The land was farmed with 2 horses and a walking plow. The seed was broadcast by hand. Harvesting was done by cutting the grain with a scythe after which the bundles were tied with ties made of the green straw of the grain. When the stooked bundles were dry they were hauled under a big shed for winter threshing. In winter the bundles were cut and spread out and 2 men would thresh with flails until the kernels were all out. This process was continued for the most part of the winter until all the grain was threshed. During the threshing the women would spin wool and flax which made linen. Then they would knit socks and mitts and weave linen into yard goods. By now the family had 4 children. The 2 eldest, both boys, died in infancy. Their first daughter, Bertha, was born Dec. 26, 1916, and their second daughter, Linda, was born on March 29, 1920.

In the winter of 1928 a travelling preacher brought news about Canada, the promised land. Lured by the challenge, Frederick and Lea with their 2 daughters, Lea's widowed mother and her youngest sister Olga Schultz, left for Canada along with 10 other families. Frederick and Lea did not dispose of their properties. Should their new adventure not work out, they would be able to return and pick up where they had left off. Frederick used his cash savings for the fares and had some extra for investments. They sailed on the ship Lithuania from Danzig, Poland bound for Halifax. The trip took 10 days by ship and 5 days by train to Edmonton. They arrived on July 4, 1928. They were met by the Reverend Wahl who was involved with the immigration department and helped to find accommodation for the new settlers. With the Reverend was Mr. Emil Steinke Sr., who brought several families under his roof, including Frederick and his family. Two or 3 families shared one house until other accommodation was found. Their temporary home was 1½ miles west of Kavanagh. Bertha and Linda's first school was the Grenthal school near Kavanagh. Once in Canada the family encountered many hardships. They worked around Leduc, harvesting, stooking, and any other work that was available.

Lea remembers how she stooked bundles all day for 50¢ a day. In the fall of that year the Briers moved to the Millet district, to a farm owned by Ferdinand Kuhn, where there were unoccupied farm buildings. The Briers lived here until the spring of 1931 when they purchased a farm from Lazel Campbell in the Breton district.

Frederick nearly had a nervous breakdown when

he discovered that it was impossible to make a living on a farm with only 5 acres of cultivated land. With encouragement from his wife he soon accepted his disappointment and with grub axe in hand began clearing more land. Despite the hard work the Briers abandoned the farm at Breton because it was too raw and would not grow grain. The depression was no help to them either. In order to survive, Frederick worked in logging camps during the winter and hauled fence posts by horse and sleigh to Leduc. This trip took 1 week to make. In the fall Frederick would go threshing which kept him away from his family for 2 months at a time.

In 1935 the Briers moved to a farm near Sunnybrook. Their daughter Bertha had married Daniel Mogdan in Nov. of 1933. Daniel had bought his farm from Dan MacKenzie. The Briers settled on



Frederick Brier, daughter Linda and sister-in-law Olga Zotzman, warming up their musical instruments.

the same farm and farmed a portion of it. This meant setting up new buildings and clearing more land. In July of 1938 their youngest daughter, Linda, married Arnold Kisser. They lived on a farm 7 miles south of Thorsby. In 1945 the Briers bought a farm in partnership with their son-in-law Arnold, which was 6 miles south of Thorsby SE 15-48-1 W5.

In 1960 they moved to the town of Thorsby and retired. By this time many of the promises of the "Promised Land" became reality; from grub axe to brush cutters, from walking plows to tractor-drawn machinery, from pitching bundles to combines equipped with push-buttons and music, from wood-fed stoves to electric ones, from the dim coal oil lamps to the bright electric lights. The greatest promise was the freedom that Frederick and Lea were privileged to live in and now their children can enjoy living in a land of plenty with all conveniences.

Frederick loved music, singing, and young people. He used his talents by joining the young group playing his violin and singing in the many programs that the young people held.

Frederick and Lea celebrated 3 very special events in their life together. The first was their 25th wedding anniversary in 1937. It was a total surprise for them, arranged by their daughters with the help of the church members and Pastor John Neufeld. As the guests were arriving they joined in a chorus of "Wedding, Wedding". Lea thought that her daughter Linda had arranged a secret wedding for herself and when Lea began lecturing Linda for not telling them of her plans, Linda joyfully announced "It's your wedding, your Silver Wedding!". Lea got so excited that she could not even dress herself and her daughter had to assist her. In 1962 they celebrated their 50th anniversary and in 1972 they celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Bertha and Linda remember the winters they spent pulling the cross-cut saw, cutting wood daily to feed 5 stoves for the duration of the winter. This same saw now hangs over the fireplace in the newly-built home of Linda's eldest son Ordan and wife Marilyn and family. Linda still remembers the farewell all the



Family picture of Frederick and Lea Brier's 50th Anniversary.

passengers that embarked on the Lithuania received, when the ship pulled away from the dock. It seemed like hundreds of people waved white hankies while a brass band played the last farewell: "Nun Adie Du Mein Lieb Heimatland" "Goodbye My Dear Homeland".

Frederick Brier passed away in Dec. of 1974, living for almost a full 86 years. Lea is still living in Thorsby in retirement.

Their daughter Bertha and husband Roy Ferster are presently living in Edmonton, Linda and husband Arnold Kisser are living in Thorsby.

THORSBY HOSPITAL

Mrs. Burgess's Hospital Near Thorsby

In 1926 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Burgess and their 8 children moved onto the S.W. 23-49-1-W5 which was unimproved bush land. They established a home on

the quarter and when the hamlet of Thorsby began after the C.P.R. railway came through, their home was only a mile north of it.

In 1930 Dr. M. Hankin came to the district to practise as a medical doctor. Realizing a desperate need for a facility where expectant mothers could await the birth of their babies, and, assessing Mrs. Burgess as a kind and efficient woman capable of managing such a home, he asked her to undertake the operation; she made room in their home for a bed and care for a person if the need should arise.

The first patient she had was the Burgess's own daughter, and a baby was delivered safely. The next case proved to be a tragedy. The patient, a young woman in labour, was brought to the Burgess home by team and sleigh in stormy weather. The birth was going to be difficult and Dr. Hankin had her taken on to an Edmonton hospital using the railway tracks as a road. Upon reaching the city hospital nothing could be done to save the patient and both she and the unborn baby died.

As the demand for more patient care arose, Edward, Mrs. Burgess's husband, built an addition 30 by 70 feet onto their log house. He followed the trade of stuccoing and plastering and was working in Edmonton, therefore, the work on the extension could only be done on weekends. It was finally finished and two rows of native spruce trees were set out along the winding drive way leading from the road to the house.

Patients increased and almost every week a new baby was born. Other patients also arrived, men who were hurt in sawmill accidents in the western regions of the area and also people who were ill with pneumonia and other ailments. Since many families lived in small homes that were cold and drafty and very overcrowded, the sick recovered sooner if they could be placed in a warmer and less crowded home.

Mrs. Burgess had no medical training but had years of experience in caring for her own children and family. Local girls or women were hired to help with the housework and care of the patients.

A baby was born prematurely once and an incubator was improvised by lining a grape basket with hot water bottles and keeping the baby warm in it. The infant weighed only 3 lbs. at birth but survived and grew up to become a pharmacist.

The days were long and the work very hard for Mrs. Burgess and in 1938 a typhoid fever epidemic hit the district. She was then 56 years of age and she too, caught the fever from a patient. The illness confined her to an Edmonton hospital for 7 long months.

During this period of time her son Harry and his wife looked after the hospital. It remained in service to the area until 1941 when Dr. Hankin joined the Canadian Armed Forces and went overseas.

The little hospital was then closed down and Mr. and Mrs. Burgess moved into Edmonton where they retired. Their daughter and son-in-law Ida and Bernard Barager took the farm over and used the

empty hospital building for a barn for their stock for 5 years. It was later torn down and the debris of it removed from view. There is today, in 1979, only a depression where the basement was once upon a time and the tree lined drive way, which has been abandoned, to remind local people of the hospital. There are many men and women living in the area who were born in the hospital and were ministered to by the kind Irish woman or her helpers in the decade and more the hospital was in existence.

ANDREW BLOMQUIST, AN EARLY MAIL CARRIER

Andrew Blomquist was born in North Dakota on Sept. 21, 1892 and came to Alberta with his parents in 1895. They settled on a farm northwest of the little village of Calmar.



Andrew Blomquist, Thorsby mail carrier for many years, and wife.

In 1922 Andrew and Nancy Melin were married. A few years later he began hauling mail to distant post offices three days a week. He delivered mail to Buford and then continued to Mulhurst.

When the hamlet of Thorsby was started the Blomquists relocated there and moved to a little house just south of the railroad in 1930.

Andrew used horses to haul the mail for some years; even after buying a car, he still had to use the team when the roads were bad because of rain or melting snow. The roads he had to travel would often



Pioneer Home

become almost impassable but he always managed to deliver the mail.

Later when he had a car, the time of his delivery was shortened. He would leave home at about 10 a.m. and be back about 3 p.m. if the roads were good.

With demands for better service in the rural districts he delivered mail six days a week. The length of his route was increased to 35 miles. He hired a man to deliver mail on the Telfordville route at that time.

After 35 years of handling and delivering mail, Andrew retired. He and Nan continued to live in Thorsby until illness overtook him. Andrew passed away in 1966.

Nan then moved to another house a few blocks up the same street and remained there until retiring into Salem Manor in Leduc in 1977.



Ladies with their spinning wheels. They were Mrs. Blomquist, Evanson, Engberg, Falk, Anderson and Andrew Erickson lying down in front.

JACK COLEMAN

Jack Coleman worked on the building of the C.P.R. line from Rimbey to Thorsby. When the line was completed, he sold his horses and mules, and remained in Thorsby.

He started to do carpentry work and Harry Dunlop and Bill Bilou were 2 men who worked with him. He built a number of houses around town.



Mules used in the construction of C.P.R. grade west of Leduc to Thorsby in 1930 and 1931.

CALGARY POWER LIMITED

by Loretta Wonitoy

On May 8, 1940 Calgary Power Company Limited and the Municipal District of Pioneer #490 applied for, and received approval for, a special franchise which granted the supply of electrical energy to the hamlet of Thorsby and its inhabitants. The original franchise covered a period of ten years, and was renewed in 1952, 1962, and again in October of 1972.

The present District Manager in Thorsby, Arnold MacKenzie, is the first and only District Manager the community has had. He started here in 1953. Bill Holmes was the first Assistant District Manager, serving in the community for about 5 years. Harold Stein has been in that position since 1959.

The first Calgary Power office was located in the Highway Motors Garage for the first 18 years of operation. The new office, on 50th Avenue, was constructed in 1973 and is one of Thorsby's most modern buildings.

Thorsby is located in Calgary Power Limited's district #41, which also includes Warburg, Breton, portions of Sunnybrook, Telfordville, Genesee, and some cottages at Wizard Lake. The village is served by #53 line which runs about 50 miles from the southeast, and #247 line which comes a distance of about 15 miles to Thorsby.

ASA CLARK HISTORY

by Mrs. Margaret Clark of Nanaimo B.C.

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Morrison, and family moved to our homestead in the district later known as the Bonnie Glen district. They came from Minnesota with five small children. In 1912 we moved to the Pigeon Lake District and we went to school at Spring Hill. I later married Asa Clark and we lived at

Pigeon Lake on his homestead. We first saw the town of Thorsby in October 1929.

We came from Pigeon Lake to see the first train come into town. The Main Street had piles of lumber on each side of it. There were no buildings finished. My husband was a carpenter and he later worked on a lot of the new buildings. The first building he worked on was the one now known as Bilar's Garage. Main Street was one block long and some of the buildings built in the winter of 1929 and '30 were: the Beaver Lumber Co., the Drug Store, the Thorsby Hotel, Lepine's Barber Shop, Forsher's Restaurant and dance hall. The first Thorsby post office and the Mudry Lumber Co. opened for business that year. My husband was manager of Mudry Lumber for several years.

During the winter of 1930 my husband built a home on an acre of land. We moved from Pigeon Lake in May 1930 and the oak, elm and ash trees around the Lutheran Manse were planted in 1930. Our youngest daughter, Hazel, born in June 1930, was the third child born in the village of Thorsby. Several years later we sold the home to the Lutheran Church and built another home on two acres of land which are now town lots on the east side of the Community Hall.



Thorsby Lutheran Church Missionary Society, 1936.



Fishing on Pigeon Lake, 1908.



Asa Clark at the Mudry Lumber Yard, 1931-32.

Our children were all educated in the Thorsby Schools. Socially they took part in school sports and activities. Norman played hockey and baseball, and Verna and Hazel belonged to the Girl Guides and Brownies.

As a family we were active in the United Church which was built in 1939. My family all reside in B.C. now. (Doris) Mrs. John Diercks in Victoria; (Verna) Mr. and Mrs. M.S. Wilson in Penticton; (Hazel) Mr. and Mrs. M.E. Laxton in Nanaimo; and (Norman) Mr. and Mrs. Norman Clark in Burnaby, B.C.

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

by Anthony Lefsrud

The movement recognized as the Interfaith Council of Churches appears to have taken root, as it

were, in the Thorsby-Warburg area.

One evening, in the early spring of 1967, a number of local clergymen, namely: Reverend Gerald Hutchinson, Father Donald Augustine MacLellan, Father Bernard Dribnecky, and Reverend John Kleiner, representing the congregations of various denominations of both the Catholic and the Protestant churches, met in the office in the back of Lefsrud's "Modern Food Market" to discuss, not only the possibility of organizing a Council of Churches, but to set up, in honour of Canada's one hundredth birthday, an Interfaith Service to be conducted in the Thorsby Community Centre in the evening of the Sunday immediately preceding Victoria Day (annually observed in Thorsby with celebrations featuring parades, music, baseball and other contests calling for skill and athletic prowess).

After considerable deliberation, they drew up an order of service, and agreed to participate therein.

Thus it came about that in the evening of the appointed day, these clergymen—assisted by a chorus of school children, led by Olga Chranowski—



Nancy Obert, Carolyn Strand and Sophia Pruneau, other members of the choir who were missing in group picture. Judy Oppegaard is absent.

captured the rapt attention of a goodly number of people, regardless of sect or creed.

After the service, to further the understanding and the fellowship, engendered by the service, most of the people from the assemblage repaired to the banquet room in the basement of the Centre for friendly chit-chat over coffee and doughnuts.

Worthy of note is the thoughtfulness which prompted earmarking the offering received at this service (as well as offerings hoped to be received at interfaith services in the years to come) for feeding, clothing and educating some unfortunate child in an undeveloped country.

Although, by 1968, several of the local clergymen had responded to calls elsewhere, their replacements saw to the organization of a Council of Churches in the Thorsby-Warburg area; and continued clerical participation — accompanied by an Interfaith choir — in services on the Victoria Day week-ends in Thorsby; as well as an annual service around the middle of January, in Warburg.

Every winter, when most people have more leisure hours, the local Council of Churches conducts a series of reflection sessions — Bible study classes — which anyone, regardless of church affiliation, is welcome to attend.



Thorsby Inter-Faith Choir. L. to R. back row, Arnold Krueger, Stanley Hoffman, Marvin Oppegaard, Gerald & Lorne Stern, Ervin Schmidt, A. Strand, director. 2nd row. Mildred Schram, Ella Schmidt, Norma Krueger organist, Art Schmidt, Linda Krueger, Ella Therriault. front row. Irma Schmidt, Shirley Radowits, Gertrude Mantei, Phyllis Madiuk and Linda Kisser, March 1979



DONNA'S BEAUTY SALON

By Donna and Wayne Prier

Family history of Wayne: Maternal grandmother - Barath married A. Lang. Their daughter Irene B. Lang born 1923. Paternal grandparents - Hulda H. Prier - 1885 -- 1976 August Prier 1883 -- 1951. They married and their son Robert H. Prier born in 1919 married Irene B. Lang. To them was born Wayne C. Prier.

Family history of Donna: Maternal grandmother - Emma Steinke married Ferdinand Steinke. Their daughter Ella Steinke born in 1913. Paternal grandparents - not known. Their son Oswald Gatzke born in 1906 married Ella Steinke. To them was born a daughter Donna May Gatzke. She and Wayne C. Prier were married on April 3, 1971 in a German Pentecostal Church. They moved to Thorsby where Wayne had established his barber shop.

Business history: Wayne's first shop was in the Medical Building south of the Thorsby Theatre. He opened it in 1966 and until 1969 he was in partnership in the building with Dr. L. Armstrong, a chiropractor who was practising in the village at that time. In that year Wayne moved into the John Rolston Building and the Thorsby Community Library was also sharing the building.



Exterior view of the Prior Béauty P. & Barber Shop, 1972.

Wayne Prior at work in his Thorsby Barber Shop.





In 1971 Wayne purchased the building from Mr. Rolston. In July of 1972 his wife Donna opened her beauty shop in a separate room in their building and they renovated it with an attractive interior and new paint on the exterior.

The shop located on Hankin Street is also the bus stop for the daily Rimbey bus which travels from Rimbey to Edmonton.

Wayne has a very green thumb and the windows of his shop are always attractive with lush green plants and bright flowers. They are a young couple interested in the affairs of the village and are involved with community events.

A.G. DORNAN FAMILY OF THORSBY

by Gordon Dornan

The Dornan family is Irish, coming to Canada in 1825. They moved to Edmonton in 1913 and the family homesteaded in the Cherhill district.

My father's family, the A.G. Dornans, consisting of my late mother Mrs. Gertrude Dornan, my father and brothers, John, myself (Gordon), Patrick, Howard, Walter and Edward, moved to Fort Saskatchewan, then to Thorsby in 1947. They were searching for proximity to education.



The A.G. Dornan family in 1947 Back row, L. to R. Gordon, Patrick, Walter, Howard. Front, John, Edward, Mother and Father Dornan.

In Thorsby, they bought a small milk business from Mr. and Mrs. Gus Turnquist. We expanded it quite a lot, delivering milk from door to door. When we delivered the milk our route from home was, turn left to the Altons, Neilsons, Sandstrom, Perleys, turning left again we served Irlams, Pecks, Diercks, Romankos, Bentleys, Clarks, Ferences, Dunlops, Mrs. Knull, Raeslers, and Neids. Turning right, there were the Gunschs, Johnsons, Stellmakers, Pyrchs and Kinasewichs near their hotel.

Turning west to the main road near the railroad crossing, we were at Pailers and Hughes. Across the tracks, and behind the cheese factory we served the Andersons, Collinsons, Kushnyriuks, and going north again, we were at Sparks, Dentmans, Ralph Ottos, and Turnquists. Going back south on that road were the Bedrys, MacRaes, Powliks, Senetchkos, and Dr. Hankin. Turning towards home again we passed the Hoffmans, Bilars, Ruzickas, Raitzs, Arthurs, Ternoways, Radowits, Jessie Marcino and Finks, whose home was across from the shoe repair shop. This, but for a few variations and omissions, was our daily route for almost five years. We delivered the milk with a grey horse hitched to a homemade wagon in summer, and in winter to a cutter.

Regulations made it difficult to continue with the dairy so we sold it in 1951 to Mr. and Mrs. A. Besler.

My brother John had joined the airforce and later attended Loyola College in Montreal graduating with a B. Sc. He then obtained his teacher's certificate from the University of Alberta and later a B.Ed. degree in the Maritimes.



Ladies of the Roman Catholic Church selling lunch at the Alonzo Dornan farm sale in mid fifties, L. to R. Mrs. Geo. Hakes, Mrs. Flater, Mrs. Walter Hamula, Helen Hoffman, Mrs. A. Dornan & Jessie Marcino.

My brothers Patrick and Howard served in the R.C.A.F. about a year, then joined the R.C.M.P. Edward joined the R.C.M.P. too. Howard is now in Newfoundland, Patrick is in Truro, N.S. and Edward is in Sarnia, Ont.

Walter attended the University of New Brunswick in Fredricton. He is a Mechanical Engineer and has worked in several countries. He now lives near San Francisco, Cal.

I spent three years with the Army Signal Corps, serving one year with the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt. I later took up meat cutting and worked for three years at Eldorado. I came home to help my parents when they retired and worked at the Thorsby cheese factory for over a year and then at the auction market. I now work at the International Airport at Nisku. Our 90 year old father is in the Leduc Nursing Home where I visit him almost daily.

My father Angelo made several trips to New Brunswick after he retired. He was interested in folk singing and got involved with it there. Many of his songs were recorded by Mrs. Helen Crayton (Creighton) and were later transposed into a book called "Maritime Folk Songs".



Mr. A.G. Dornan

His reason for returning to New Brunswick was partly to compete in the Miramichi Folk Song Festival organized by the late Lord Beaverbrook or Max Aitken without his title.

THEM WERE THE DAYS

by W.H. "Duke" De Coursey

I first saw Thorsby in August 1931. At that time I was "printer's devil" on the Rimbey Record and I was sent north by my boss to rustle printing orders -- and to my recollection my first trip to Thorsby was successful. While employed later in Edmonton I made frequent trips to Thorsby, and in January 1937 in partnership with the late Leslie King established The Western Messenger (named in a contest by Tom Jablonski -- deleting the word Catholic from The Western Catholic to become The Western Messenger).

Early business people included: Matt Samardzic, unofficial mayor and for many years a member of Pioneer Municipal Council; Jim B. Howe, proprietor of the only cafe in the town; Clee Hale, who came to Thorsby from Montana to farm, and who became an implement dealer; John Rolston and his wife Edythe, who operated a general store, the post office and telephone exchange; Bill Armstrong, C.P.R. - Hudson's Bay agent and government agent for a

THE MESSENGE

THORSBY, ALBERTA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1937 VOL. 1, NO 1 Calmar Board of Trade Thorsby Curlers News Appreciated Thos. Jablonski, Thorsby, **Annual Meeting Tonight** Organize for 1937 Contributions of local and Suggests Title For New Paper The annual meeting of Calmar pard of trade will be held on Thurs-Eighteen curling enthusiasts from district news will be appreciat-Thorsby met in the local hotel on ed at all times by The Western day, January 14. A good attendance Thomas Jablonski, who suggested the title, "The Western Messenger," will be \$10.00 richer when he pre-Thursday evening of last week to discuss plans for this season's play. The personnel of the rinks is as follows: Ruzicka, Hankin, Knox, train errice. Any suggestions will H. Delameter and J. Ruzicka, the retiring president and secretary of the local club were re-elected to office by scclamation, and were em-Hockey Notes he appreciated by the secretary. King; Simons, Arthur, Hubbard, rocks for the organization.

Schultz; Delameter, Ruzicks, Kelly,
With five rinks the fee was set at Johnson; Rolston, Stevens, Bloma BIRTHS Dr. M. Haward R. R. Rusicka and O. Simons R. A. Schedule quis, Panar; Olson, Neid, Martin, On Monday, January 11, to Mr. ill appear in and Mrs. Tom Peterson of Mulhurst, A schedule of gar PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON and Satisfaction get your Phones 14 and 16 Alber Thorsby r Rexall Druggists MIKE'S CHOP MILI ngratulate King & DeCoursey in their RUNNING EVERY DAY Dr. W. E. Webber ection of a location for The Western 410 Empire Building, Edmonton senger, and wish them every success. M. E. KUZIO DENTIST Will be at Thorsby Hotel Wed., Jan. 27 Thorsby Winfield The second secon Drug Store Drug Store GO. To one and all I extend On behalf of the Win-Thorsby Garage Dedio's s for my thanks and apprece field Drug Store I ex-, and at all iation for your patron-age during the past press my appreciation A complete mechanical service for the business you ustomror tally grateful and daring the past year.

For all this I am pordated with me assure first-class serhave placed with me Meat Market for all makes of cars at your sarvice. dise is of disposal. quality, assure first-class service day or night. At this store you will al-warranta continu ways receive Service with courtesy. I will endeavor to assured the Heated Storage warrant a continuation when you Gasoline and Oil Fresh and Accessories C. K. FRENCH JOS. R. RUZICKA H. L. ARMITAGE Cured Meat You Always Get Better Service Thorsby & immuni At A Rexall Drug Store!

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Ladies' Winter Coats at Half Price Men's Coats Gast Fur. 3 only. \$19.95	Men's Heavy Doeskin Shirts Each 1.19 Men's Work and Dress Pants Pair 1.49
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variety of services --- indeed a talented Scotsman who kept his experiences of other years a secret; Ed and Elaine Kelly at the Thorsby Hotel, where we received first class board and room for thirty bucks a month - in fact, the town's first permanent banker and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, made their home for a few years at the hotel.

Provincial politics were considered of utmost local importance during the early days of Thorsby, and they were days of world depression. Earl Ansley was M.L.A. for several terms. It was understood that Premier William Aberhart's local representative was Ken Foy, who lived near town.



Duke DeCoursey, sitting front left. First business men in Thorsby, gathered in front of the Thorsby Hotel.

Early business people Joe and Lawrence Ruzicka were accomplished musicians -- Joe was the local druggist and Lawrence manager of the Beaver Lumber. Their brother-in-law Allen MacDonald built and operated one of the last small town flour mills in Western Canada before going to the Northwest Territories to establish a sawmill and transportation business. Dr. Myers Hankin travelled the country whenever he was called and helped keep people healthy in an area of about 2,000 square miles. His wife, the former Leona Blades, was pioneer principal of the Thorsby School. Mrs. Frances (Nick) Senetchko was secretary of the Thorsby School District and the Thorsby Agricultural Society was headed, to our recollection, by Fred Van Alstyne, Telfordville postmaster.



Thorsby finals in cribbage about 1931.

We had a large chemical extinguisher mounted on a cart to combat fires if they should occur and a fire hall at the south end of Main Street. The cart could be pushed easily by four men, but I can't recall that it was ever used.

Choicest beef was sold for 15¢ a pound by local butcher Joe Dedio. Cheese by the brick from the Thorsby Cheese Factory went for 10¢ a pound. Beer was 10¢ for a 10-ounce glass at Kelly's Hotel and for 85¢ you could buy a mickey of brandy of L.C.B. rye. John Powlick could sell a new Chev and John Bilar a new Dodge for less than \$1,000 with a full tank of gasoline and ready for the road; Brunswick sardines retailed on special at Hoffmans' at 21 tins for \$1.



Main street of Thorsby in 1932. Buildings at left at far end of street contained an electrical repair shop, beauty parlor, offices of the Western Messenger newspaper and a general store. These all burned in a fire in 1948.

Lloyd Powell became, during World War II, a much decorated Thorsby boy and a renowned Trainbuster. Sadly, he was due to return to Canada with his bride when he was shot down over Germany, near the war-end.

Maude Barager was employed with Rolstons in the store, post office and telephone exchange. She and I were married at Christmas in 1939. I joined the air force in 1941 and after the war we followed the mining towns, particularly in the Canadian North, with new newspapers until 1969. We have lived at the west coast since then.

FARASCHUK — MICHAEL AND ANTONIA

written by their daughter Louise Pignanelli

My father was born in Zaliesie, Ukraine on January 28, 1895. In 1907 when Michael was 12 his family immigrated to Canada. They eventually settled on a farm 2 miles east and 1 mile south of Thorsby. My father, at 18, left the farm to work in Edmonton as a night watchman during the final year of construction on the High Level Bridge in 1913.

On February 16, 1918 he married Antonia Yawney. My mother was the daughter of William and Anna Yawney who came to Canada in 1899. Mom was

born in Leduc, December 22, 1900.

Shortly after my parents were married they moved to the Drumheller area where Dad worked in a coal mine for \$4.00 a day. My brother Nick was born in Wayne, Alberta on March 19, 1925. Three years later my parents moved back to the farm near Thorsby where I was born.





Nick Wm. Faraschuk 1925

Michael and Antonia Faraschuk -1920

The summer of 1928 was extremely hot producing many electrical storms. It was during one of these storms that lightning struck the farmhouse. Heavy black clouds hung low and flashes of lightning

brightened the sky. My mother and brother were in the kitchen when lightning steaked down the chimney and bolted out the window producing deafening noises. The ceiling plaster cracked and began to fall around them showering the room with plaster and thick dust. With Nick screaming fiercely, Mom rushed him outside, raced around through the front door to rescue me from the bedroom. I missed it all as I slept soundly throughout the entire event. Fortunately no one was injured although there was extensive damage to the house.

In 1929 Mom and Dad decided to leave the farm and venture into business. A site in Thorsby was chosen despite the area being a swampy muskeg.

If you remember when the muddy streets in spring were so deep that both man and beast often mired down; wooden plank sidewalks were in existence; and motorists experienced difficulty driving up the muddy Weed Creek Hill — then you could truly call yourself a "Pioneer of Thorsby".

The Thorsby Pool Hall & Barber Shop was constructed on the east side of center Main Street, now Hankin Street Lot 20 - Block 2. The contractor was my uncle, Nick Senetchko. He is credited with building a number of the business establishments and homes in the Thorsby area from 1929 to 1953.

The original Pool Hall had four small tables. Dad charged a nickel a game. It was expanded in 1945 to accommodate two 6' x 12' snooker tables. Eventually there were 5 snooker tables and only 1 of the original tables remained. Dad was strict and wouldn't allow anyone under the age of 18 to play pool unless accompanied by a parent. Sundays — the Pool Hall was closed. This gave Nick and me the opportunity to invite the younger set, under 18, to play pool. At that age a wooden pop case to stand on, was sometimes necessary to reach the pool table.

The Pool Hall was originally illuminated by gas lamps hanging over each table. These required regular refuelling and pumping. Then came the electrical power furnished by a Delco generator plant owned by John Powlik. The engine was a one-cylinder Fairbanks-Morse with a 6 foot flywheel. One summer in the early 30's the balky power plant stopped. This not unusual occurrence brought a group of townspeople to the Powik Garage. The attempts to start the engine were ended when the batteries exploded, showering the bystanders with acid.

Fortunately no one was badly injured — Nick Senetchko received a burn and cut on his chin, which left a lifelong scar and my brother Nick had his clothes peppered with acid.

The electrical service was not the 24 hour service we have today — but was limited from early morning until midnight. The blinking of the lights at 11:45 p.m. signalled a 15-minute time period to lights out. Many evenings a 15-minute warning was insufficient to complete a hotly contested game of snooker. At times the game was completed by flashlight.



Thorsby Pool Hall Constructed in 1929.

Michael Faraschuk with wife Antonia and children Nick and Louise - photo taken in 1936

When Mike opened the first barber shop he charged 25¢ a haircut for adults and 15¢ for children. I recall, one Saturday before Christmas when Dad worked until 2 a.m. completing 52 haircuts. In 1946 haircuts went up in price in Edmonton from 50¢ to 65¢ for adults. Mike raised his prices charging 50¢ for adults and 35¢ for children. At no time did he charge the same rate as set by the Master Barbers' Association.

Mike established the John Deere Agency in Thorsby in 1931 which served farmers from Leduc to Breton. In 1948 he took his son Nick into partnership. The John Deere building was constructed on Lot 1-Block 1 Sub. Plan 1828 EO. (1 block west of Center Street) Nick was the chief mechanic and kept up with the latest technology by attending periodic training sessions at the John Deere Training Center.

My father and mother were active in the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church. Dad assisted in building the church and hall which were originally located 3 miles east of Thorsby. He also helped with the moving of the structures in to Thorsby in 1943. Nick Senetchko carefully laid out the plans of setting the buildings on logs, seeing that power lines were cut at crossroads and

supervised the move. They jacked up the buildings, then my brother Nick operated Uncle Nick Faraschuk's 1924 steel-wheeled tractor to push the log skids into position. A caterpillar rented from the municipal district was used to pull the buildings inch by inch into Thorsby. This project took several days with the combined effort on the part of the church parishioners.

Mom served as President of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Ladies Organization a number of times and remains active in church affairs. In 1954, Mom was a delegate to the Ukrainian Women's Convention at the Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon, Sask.

My parents beautified the church by commissioning the painting of the Last Supper in the Iconostasis.

The Pool Hall was sold on April 11, 1961 and a few years later was converted into a grocery store.

Mike Faraschuk passed away August 14, 1964. Antonia continues to make her home in Thorsby.

My brother Nick received his education in Thorsby and was active in hockey, football and baseball. In 1939 he joined the Thorsby Boy Scout Troop. One of the local teachers, Mr. G.R. Mealing was the scoutmaster; it was through his efforts that scouting came to Thorsby.

Nick married Laura (Monsson) Conlin of Telfordville in 1948. Laura attended school in Port View and later high school in Thorsby. She was employed by the Bank of Montreal from 1956 to 1966.

On April 14, 1953 at 9:15 p.m. fire broke out at the John Deere Agency. Nick immediately phoned the Fire Department — the alarm was sounded. The fire truck appeared at the scene, unfortunately the hoses so necessary to fight a fire were not on the truck. Earlier in the week Thorsby experienced an abundance of rain and the hoses were being used at some of the residences to pump water out of their basements. By the time the hoses were rounded up — it was too late — as the fire raced on and in one hour the building was completely destroyed. A new building was constructed shortly thereafter.

Nick and Laura moved to Colfax, Washington in January, 1967, where Nick continues his association with the John Deere Company. Laura is on the staff of the Colfax Gazette. The former John Deere building in Thorsby presently houses Thorsby Electric.

Nick and Laura have one son Michael who attended school in Thorsby and was active in sports mainly; football and basketball. He completed his high school in Colfax and attended the Washington State College in Cheney, Washington. Michael married Keitha Annis and has two sons, Brian 7 and Michael 1. He lives in Spokane, owns and operates the Dr. Good Sound auto-stereo radio center. He has enjoyed racing stock cars for the last four years and is an avid 'pool shark'. Several billiard trophies which he possesses are attributed to his early training in Grandpa's Pool Hall. In 1977 he was awarded first prize in the Moose Lodge tournament.



Front row left to right are: Laura Faraschuk, Brian Faraschuk, Antonia Faraschuk holding Michael Faraschuk Jr. Louise Pignanelli, Keitha Faraschuk. Back row: Nick Faraschuk, Michael Faraschuk and Frank Pignanelli. 1978

I attended schools in Thorsby and McDougall High School in Edmonton. In 1939 I joined the Girl Guides which was organized by Mrs. Leona Hankin. We had a membership of twenty at that time. In July of 1943 we spent an exciting week at the Hankin cabin at Sandholm Beach. One evening several of us took the row boat (without permission) and took off for Itaska Beach to visit the Hoffman family. On our return trip we were caught in a windstorm causing the boat to toss and sway. Needless to say, it was a frightening experience and we were reprimanded upon our return.

In 1948, during an acute teacher shortage in Alberta, I was approached by Cyril Pyrch, Superintendent of Schools, to supervise the students at the Telfordville School. My class consisted of 23 students ranging from the first to ninth grades for which I was compensated \$115.00 per month.

From 1949 to 1956 I was employed by the Alberta Department of Public Works in the Parliament Building. I then moved to Spokane, Washington and in May 1958 married Frank E. Pignanelli. My husband's company manufactures trailers.

THE STEVE FERENCE STORY

by Steve and Annie Ference

Steve Ference arrived in Halifax, Canada on a ship called the Baltic America on August 8, 1929, from Roddimno in the Ukraine. Being a courageous young lad of 22 years of age, he immigrated to Canada leaving behind his mother, 4 brothers and 1 sister: Mike, John, Peter, Paul and Marie.

Arriving in Montreal by train, he stayed the night and then moved on to his uncle's place, Alex Ference of Smoky Lake, Alberta, where he stayed 3 days.

Steve then joined a threshing crew for a month until freeze-up. From there, he got acquainted with a trapper named Jim Scott, who had many trap lines and taught Steve the many and varied skills of trapping. His area was 120 miles long and 20 miles wide, and he took Steve out to get acquainted with the trapping route. Mr. Scott provided Steve with 6 dogs and a sled, as well as a 30 / 30 Winchester rifle, a 44 calibre hand gun, and a skinning knife. From there on, Steve was on his own and was left to trap all winter near Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories. That spring, he brought his furs to Edmonton's Hudson Bay Company where they auctioned off the furs to the highest bidder, with Steve's share being a total of \$375.00.

With this money, Steve decided to purchase a farm in the Pemberton School area. That farm was owned by the Soldiers' Settlement Board and consisted of an old house, a barn, and approximately 40 acres of cultivated land. Steve rented the land, on a crop share basis, to a farmer bythe name of Bill Kruger. That year his share of wheat was approximately 400 bushels. A truck was hired and the 400 bushels of grain was hauled to the Thorsby elevator. After deductions for

the truck and the renter, a total of 18¢ per bushel was received for the wheat. This ended Steve's career as a farmer. From here, he decided to try his carpentry skills and found a few jobs building log houses.



Steve Ference & Anne (Kobeluck) at the time of their marraige, October 23, 1938.

On Oct. 23, 1938, Steve married Annie Kobeluck, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kobeluck of Sunnybrook. After their marriage they settled in Thorsby. At that time it was a small town consisting of 2 garages, 2 general stores, a post office, hotel and a drug store. They purchased a parcel of land east of main street which was later subdivided into 4 individual lots. During those early years, Steve and Annie lived in a small house, which was later replaced by a larger home, in which they still live. Steve got a job at a local garage and earned the sum of \$24.00 per month.

In 1939, Steve and Annie had their first daughter, Alice (Lisa), who was born blind. At the age of 9 years,

Lisa was sent to Brantford, Ontario to a school for the blind. It was there she graduated from high school and continued her education at the University of Toronto. Upon her graduation from the university of Toronto, she obtained her teacher's degree. She is still teaching in Toronto.

Steve and Annie had their second daughter, Marie, in 1945. Marie attended both Thorsby Junior and Senior High Schools. Since graduation, Marie has been employed at the Edmonton General Hospital as a Medical Secretary in the Dept. of Laboratory Medicine. In November, 1974, Marie married Bob Banham. They have 1 daughter, Leanne, who is in Grade 5 in New Sarepta.

In August, 1946, they had their third daughter, Bernice. Bernice also finished her schooling in Thorsby, to continue her education at the University of Alberta where she obtained her teacher's degree. She married Terry Pierce, who was at the time a referee for the National Hockey League. They have made their home in Toronto where they live with their 2 sons, Terry Steven, and Michael.

After working at a number of jobs in his lifetime, Steve started working on the construction of the Edmonton International Airport in 1958, where he was responsible for the construction of the runways. Upon completion of the airport, he was transferred to Richmond, B.C. and then on to Comox, B.C. to build extensions to runways on the Comox Airbase for the Voodoo planes. In 1961, Steve travelled to Winnipeg, once again building runways.

Upon completion of this job, he returned to Thorsby, where he was employed by the village of Thorsby. He was responsible for the water treatment plant and maintenance of the local streets, etc.

Steve and Annie continue to reside in Thorsby, enjoying their leisure years with their many friends and family.



Lisa Ference M.A. graduated from University of Toronto, 1965.



Mr. & Mrs. Bob Banham, daughter, Leanne.



Mr. & Mrs. Terry Pierce, Terry Steven, Michael Shane. Son-in-law and daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ference.

CHRISTIAN AND MARTHA FORSTER

by Martha Forster

Christian Forster came to Alberta from Russia in 1912. Martha Forster came from Russia to Alberta in 1913, with her parents (nee Busenius). She was born in 1903—December 29. Christian was born on November 7, 1891. He died on November 16, 1972.

We were married on April 28, 1921 in the Gnadenthal Lutheran Church, near Calmar. We farmed in the Calmar district for 21 years.

In 1942 we moved to the Telfordville district and farmed there over 20 years. In the fall of 1961 we moved into Thorsby.



Inset is youngest son Harvey.

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Forster & family - Arthur, Edward,

Harold & Ruth - 1937

We were blessed with 4 sons and 1 daughter; Arthur, Edward, Harold, Harvey and Gertrude. We were predeceased by 2 sons, Arthur and Harold, in 1960. I have 15 grandchildren and 5 greatgrandchildren.

In 1971 we celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary. December 29, 1978 is my 75th birthday.

We had our ups and downs, but we had our good days too, or else we wouldn't have survived. So let's count our blessings as we have been blessed in many ways.

THE LESTER FORSHNER STORY

by Dolly (Forshner) Radowits

I am Mrs. Steve Radowits recalling the "early days". My maiden name was Dolly Forshner. My father followed railroading across Canada from Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, to Rosetown, Sask., where I was born in my Grandpa's log cabin in 1914. My father had his own beautiful, big horses to do the work; I think they were Clydesdales. My father was a crazy, happy Irishman and so one winter, hauling lumber in Winfield, Alberta, the word was out: there was a railroad branch going through from Lacombe to Leduc, Alberta. That is all it took--the fever was on

once again! We packed up the truck to settle in the pretty, willowed countryside which is now Thorsby.

I was the first girl in Thorsby. My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Forshner, and eight children, had found 'a place.'



First home of Steve and Dolly Radowits, just north of C.P.R. track, across from the cheese factory.

My father couldn't wait - his vision was clear - he would go to this spot and build a restaurant---a big enough place for his family to live in too, as 6 boys and 2 girls (my baby sister, Muriel and myself--our oldest sister Gladys, had married Norman McLeod and already lived in Prince Albert, Sask.) needed space. So there we were---not a thing in sight so my father pitched a big tent and there we lived until the building was up. And were we busy! Yes, we fed the railroad workers and all the first newcomers with excitement. There was another building that went up very quickly, that was to be the store and post office. Yes, Mr. and Mrs. John Rolston came to this new land, too---I remember the evening they came to this lovely country as they were very nice people and I served their supper well. Oh ves, then there was the third girl in Thorsby--June Rolston who was just a babe in arms!

Progress had begun. It seemed overnight, Main Street had sprung up. My father didn't stop either. On the corner of our property he built a dance hall that was full every Saturday night....Lawrence Ruzicka and others played at one time or another. Guess who made the basket lunches for 25¢ each?! They consisted of a big piece of homemade cake, or such, and a nice roast beef, pork or ham sandwhich, pickle and lots of coffee. I was only thirteen but I could bake, help cook, and wash clothes in a tub with a washboard. A good scrub brush helped—with 6 brothers, what else? I also sewed on my mom's treadle sewing machine before by feet barely touched the treadle! I still love to sew anything I can get my hands one.

So then my father built a barber shop in between our dance hall and restaurant. This brought Mr. and Mrs. Alex Lepine to Thorsby. So on the ball rolled!

In 1933 I met Steve V. Radowits who owned his own grist mill business. We were married a year later and a new life began. Forty-four years later, we live in Everett, Washington, U.S.A.---27 years in this very house. I love it here.



Mrs. L. Forshner and daughter Muriel already to leave Thorsby in 1934. Truck was in front of the Forshner building. Thorsby's first hall at end of street in background.

All my family left Alberta. I had two brothers, Wilbur and George, in World War II. They came home safe, thank God for that. My father passed away, when our first girl (Patricia, now age 35) was just a baby, on October 10, 1944. Then came daughters Marilyn (age 32 living in Melbourne, Australia) and Linda (age 30) and one grandchild - Patricia's daughter, Tiffany Ann Biehn, who will be 12 in September, 1978.

My mother passed away in 1972; she was 87 years old. I also lost my oldest brother, Ernie, 2 years ago.

We all love the Northwest---our daughters were all born in Everett. I think Steve and I have travelled a lot but always come back to this grandeur of the Pacific Northwest.

This is one interlude of a family moving West. If this is proper, I would like to dedicate this in memory of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester William Forshner, who lived in Thorsby from 1929 to 1934 (and then moved to Niton, Alberta). Thank you so much for this great pleasure!



Helen and Ernestine Williams and Dolly Forshner in front of the C.P.R. Passenger train at Thorsby station in 1933.

EPILOGUETO THE FORSHNER FAMILY STORY IN 1978

By Dolly Forsbner Radowits

My oldest sister Gladys and her husband Norman McLeod live in New Westminster, B.C.

Ernie my oldest brother, who used to work in Dad's garage in Thorsby, passed away two years ago. He will be remembered as being the top mechanic in large logging firms from Stuart, B.C. to Port Hardy and elsewhere.

Herman also operated large logging trucks and bulldozers in British Columbia. He is retired and lives in Castlegar.

I, Dolly am a mother and homemaker living in Everett, Wash. My husband Steve is retired; his occupation was a bridge and dock builder.

Dave lives in Parksville, B.C. with his wife Lydia and has done many years of trucking business.

Les passed away when he was 29 years old in Edson, Alberta. He also did trucking.

Wilbur, who used to work for Dr. M. Hankin in his office on weekends, now lives in Gibson, B.C. He has a chain of large logging trucks.

Muriel and her husband John live in Langley, B.C. and she often recalls the first school classes held in our father's dance hall while the Thorsby school was being built. Mrs. Hale was the first teacher, and besides her she recalls June Rolston, who was her constant playmate.

George and Shirley also live in Gibson, B.C. and have a logging business.

FORSHNER Family Tree

Maternal grandmother Eva Snyder (American) Maternal grandfather Joseph Darls (American)

Their daughter Rosa A. Darls
Paternal grandmother Syfroni (Ireland)
Paternal grandfather David Forshner (Ireland)

Their son Lester William Forshner
Married Rosa A. Karls
To them was born ... Dolly Lavita May,
who married S. Radowits, Born March 12, 1914.

RADOWITS Family Tree

Paternal father John Radowits from the Ukraine Paternal mother Jennie Hanas from the Ukraine

Their son Steve Vernon Radowits born Dec. 25, 904.

Married Dolly Lavita May Forshner in a Greek Orthodox Church on April 21, 1934 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Their first residence was in Thorsby where he was in business. After a few years they moved to Washington and made their home in Everett.

To them were born 3 daughters: Patricia Ann Radowits ... born April 29, 1943 Marilyn Jean Radowits ... born July 31, 1945 Linda Sharron Radowits ... born September 5, 1948

Patricia Ann married and has one daughter: Tiffany Ann Biehn born September 20, 1966.

DOUGLAS AND DIANA (WURBAN) GODKIN AND FAMILY

by Millie Kelsey

Diana married Douglas Grant Godkin, son of George and Margaret Godkin of Turner Valley, on February 8, 1969.



Godkin Family: Sitting - Connie, Daniel Wurban, and Valerie; Standing - Doug, Linda, Sherry (left); Standing - Charlene and Diana (right.

They lived in British Columbia until July, 1976 at which time they moved into the former Daniel Wurban's residence in Thorsby. They are purchasing a parcel of land on Daniel Wurban's home place to set up their own acreage.

They have 5 daughters; Charlene born on March 10, 1958, Sherry born Nov. 6, 1959, Linda born May 26, 1961, Connie born May 13, 1964, and Valerie born May 16, 1968.



Godkin Girls: Connie, Linda, Charlene, Sherry and Valerie.

Oldest daughter Charlene married Phillip Charpentier of Thunder Bay, Ontario on August 27, 1977. They have made their home in the town of Thorsby. Sherry is working and living in New Westminster, .B.C.

THE GOETZINGER FAMILY

by Donna Goetzinger

Although we are not pioneers in the true sense of the word, we are the first of our immediate family to settle this far north.

Chester was born in Plentywood, Montana, in 1939, the second of 9 children. He was raised on a large beef and grain farm. Plentywood is about 100 miles south of Regina, and the land and weather conditions are similar to Regina's. He went to a one-room school until buses began taking children to Plentywood. He graduated from Plentywood High School, then went to Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. He graduated in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. This degree was a step on the way to what he really wanted to be — a veterinarian. He applied for admission to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University, was accepted, and graduated in 1966 — a doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

I was born in California while my father was a flight instructor in the U.S. Air Force. When World War II was over, my parents moved back to Idaho, their home state. All the childhood I remember was spent in Moscow, Idaho. After graduating from Moscow High School, I attended the University of Idaho for 4 years, majoring in Elementary Education, Music, English, and Zoology.

Washington State University is 8 miles from the University of Idaho. While we were attending our respective universities, we met, and married in 1965.

Chester had always wanted to "Go North," so in late March of 1966 he came to Alberta looking for employment. He was pleasantly surprised to find that there wasn't much snow, and that it wasn't very cold. It must have been a mild year! When he returned to Pullman, he told me that he really thought that we should move. I was intrigued by the idea of living in Canada, but, being a home-loving girl, wasn't all that keen on moving! However, in June 1966, armed with a brand-new diploma, landed immigrant papers, and a job offer, we moved to Canada.

That trip! We loaded our possessions, which consisted mostly of heavy books, into my father's little camper trailer, hitched the trailer to the car, and we were off. I can't remember how many flat tires we had--it's probably a good thing that I can't! The trip took forever, it seemed, because we could only go 40 miles an hour. The trailer was badly overloaded, you see. We spent the first night in Bowden, Alberta, and hoped to reach Barrhead the next day. But shortly before we got to Millet, the trailer axle broke. We spent most of the day, or what remained of it, kicking our heels in Millet, while someone kindly repaired the axle. We arrived in Barrhead the next evening, tired out, but with all our possessions intact.

We lived in Barrhead for a year and a half. The first winter was really cold, not at all like it was when Chester came looking! I really felt the cold, since where I came from the schools were closed if the official temperature reached plus 10 Fahrenheit!

One warm-looking day I walked the 3 blocks to the post office. My nose kept trying to freeze shut-a novel experience--and my ears felt rather stiff, but I attributed it all to the fresh Canadian air. When I walked into the nice, warm post office, I heard a loud CRACK!--and my glasses shattered! It was -40 that morning! Just the fresh Canadian air!



Dr. Chester Geotzinger and his secretary in his Thorsby Veterinary Clinic.

In January of 1968 we moved to Thorsby, and purchased the veterinary practice from Dr. Jim Goin. The clinic was located in the Batheldt building, on the corner of 49th Avenue and 52nd Street. I remember sitting in the clinic while Chester was out on calls, hoping that no one would come in for anything, because I was sure I wouldn't know what they wanted!

Our daughter, Kodi Michelle, was born in March 1968, and son Derek Kerwin arrived in March, 1971.

Soon after we arrived in Thorsby, I became aware of the need of a music teacher in the village. I began teaching private piano, organ, and theory lessons in September, 1968. When I began teaching, there were far more piano students than organ students. Now there is an almost equal number of each.

My father raised American Saddlebred horses, and shortly after we moved to Thorsby we imported two of these horses for pleasure riding. Both were mares, and it wasn't long before we wanted a foal. Or even two foals! In short order we found ourselves raising horses. We boarded our horses on the Hale farm, just east of town, but as our herd increased it became apparent that we should look for land of our own. So the search for land began. We were limited because we couldn't be too far from town, and a quarter section would be too much land for us to look after.

Meanwhile, the other half of the clinic building had been leased to George Simpson, and he needed more room for this furniture store. We purchased a mobile home and moved it to the old Blomquist lot on the corner of 52nd Street and 50th Avenue.

Late in 1976 we found the parcel of land we had been looking for. In 1977 we purchased the west half of SE 4-49-1 W5 from Walter Radowits. We built some fences and moved our horses to our own land.

The summer of 1978 we moved to the acreage. Our house wasn't ready to move into on time, so we lived for 3 months in a truck camper--through the wettest fall I can remember! We were really cramped for space, but cleaning "house" didn't take long! When I thought that I couldn't stand it any longer, I'd think of those hardy pioneers, living year 'round in places not much bigger, with none of the conveniences.

We all manage to keep very busy, Chester with his veterinary practice-(if you want details on that, read the James Herriot books!)-and I with working at the clinic, and with music lessons. Our spare time is usually spent doing the never-ending things farm upkeep requires, raising horses, and (hopefully) Basenjis, the African Barkless dogs.

MISS FRANCES GRUNINGER

written by Frances Ekstrom

I taught school in Thorsby in 1964-65 while Mr. John Woloshyn was principal. Although I taught in Thorsby only one year, I enjoyed my grade 4 class very much. Teaching school was one of the happiest times in my life. Before coming to Thorsby I taught in Breton for 3 years and in Didsbury for one year.



Miss Frances Gruninger 1964

Some of the teachers I taught with were Ken Rispler, Art Zedel, Olga Chranowski and Josephine Hier. It was in Thorsby that I met and married my husband, Allan Ekstrom.

After travelling for sometime in the oil fields we moved to our homestead west of Breton where we still live. We have two daughters, Cindy and Kim and one son Dallas.

THE HALE STORY

by Patricia Lefsrud

Beulah Zimmerman Hale, better known as "Mom Hale," is recognized by all who know her as a lively, industrious, compassionate, courageous, hospitable woman.

Born in Aberdeen, South Dakota, June 18, 1892, Beulah spent her childhood on farms near Corning, Arkansas, and in Indian Territory, Oklahoma. She realized her childhood ambition of becoming a teacher upon graduation from Northwest Teacher's College at Alva, Oklahoma.

While teaching primary school at Darrow, Oklahoma, she fell in love with, and married Clee Hale, the principal of the school, in 1917.

Later, the Hales moved to Ft. Benton, Montana, where they taught school as well as farmed. It was during these years that Clee Hale, an ardent baseball enthusiast, pitched for the Browning Indians with the distinction of being the only white man on the team. He also acquired a reputation in baseball circles of often having three men in a row up to bat and fanning them all with no balls going to the field. This expert pitching occurred quite frequently in his baseball career - a career which extended well into his years in the Thorsby area.

During these years of farming at Ft. Benton they seldom had a crop--what wasn't dried out by the hot winds, was eaten by grasshoppers.

Upon calling at Ft. Benton, Mont., the C.P.R. land agent from Leduc, Alberta didn't have too much trouble persuading the Hales that they should sign up for land in Alberta.

Other families too were enticed by the C.P.R. land agent to take advantage of the cheap land in Canada. The Hales were accompanied by Mrs. Hale's mother, Mrs. Zimmerman; Clee's sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Laffiet Schoonover and their four children; and Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Zeiner and their family of five

Since the distance from Ft. Benton to the Montana-Alberta border crossing at Sweetgrass wasn't much greater than that from Ft. Benton to the nearest railroad, the three families decided that it was to their advantage to travel by horsedrawn wagons as far as the border. They would then spot a freight car to take them and their possessions as close to their homesteads in Alberta as possible.

Six wagons, two to each family, were loaded with all their worldly possessions. The cows were herded, and the chickens were crated, as was the household paraphernalia. Hale's new "Model-T" Ford was also part of the cargo bound for Alberta, Canada.

Finally the wagons rolled and bumped over the dusty road, leaving Ft. Benton behind. Clee Hale and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Zimmerman, went ahead of the wagons in the "Model-T" to find suitable camping spots, and to have the meals ready when the wagons arrived. Since the cattle, slow of gait, were permitted

to graze and rest at intervals along the way, not many miles were gained in one day. After what seemed endless travelling and camping, the tired animals and the weary emigrants arrived at the border town of Sweetgrass, only to learn that it would take about a week to check the horses and cattle for disease germs before a crossing could be granted. Also, they learned that they were not permitted to take their "Model-T" over the border until six months had elapsed on account of the serial number being too recent for the car to go duty free.

Finally everything was in order at the border, and the wagons, animals, chickens, and the household goods, were loaded onto the freight car, except the "Model-T" which Mr. Hale stored and made arrangements to pick up six months later. All went well, without accident, and the three families arrived in Leduc, Alberta, on September 3, 1923.

However, the journey was still not at an end, as their homesteads were more than twenty miles west of Leduc, in the area where Thorsby now stands.

After reloading the cargo back on the wagons from the freight car, the Hales and the Schoonovers, leaving the Zeiners in Leduc, headed west into what was then a wilderness - a frontier of corduroy roads and swamps.

The trail was not only rough, it was abominable! The bumping and shaking of the wagons made riding so unpleasant that those who could, walked most of the way.

After a couple of days of making camp and plodding along with the cattle they finally came to the journey's end, and here the two families separated, going their own way.

This untamed land of timber, bluffs, willows, swamps, water, and waist-high peavine was to be their home. As they unloaded the contents of the wagons they realized that intestinal fortitude and physical endurance would be the prerequisite to breaking this rough Alberta sod with a team of horses, a walking plow, an axe, and their own two hands. What callouses those poor hands were destined to acquire in the years to come!

The Hales were fortunate in not having to build a shelter before the first winter set in.

The Dniester school (where that well-known author, Ross Annett was the first teacher in 1914) about eight miles distant, needed a teacher. Mrs. Hale, finding her teaching certificate to be in order, accepted the position, and the Hales, along with Beulah's mother, moved into the two small rooms, intended for a teacherage, above the school room for the winter.

Teaching forty-nine pupils of various ethnic backgrounds in grades from one to eight in this little primitive room was a far cry from her teaching experience in the U.S.A., but she had always wanted to teach in a place where she could feel that she was doing some good-here was the challenge! But that wasn't all. At night in return for vegetables, milk, etc., she was expected to sew clothes for her pupils; the

parents supplying the cloth, of course.

One morning, after school had been in session for two weeks, Beulah was confronted by several new pupils, between the ages of six and twelve, not one of them speaking English, wanting to start to school. Where had they come from? They had been hiding in the woods for two weeks, observing the teacher from behind the trees to see whether or not they would like her!

of the blackboards, in tribute to Ireland's Patron Saint, Patrick; and when, at three-thirty in the afternoon, as the little ones would be bundling up to struggle home through freshly-fallen, knee-deep snow, a number of older boys and girls (past school age) would, as like as not, be scuffling and giggling in the anteroom while waiting to be let in to decorate the classroom with green streamers in readiness for the evening's St. Patrick's dance. After supper, the Irish--and "those



Thorsby Jr. Room with Mrs. Beulah Hale teaching grades 1 to 5.

Mrs. Hale was paid a salary of \$1,050 per year, plus 25 cents extra per day if she wished to teach grade IX.

When Mrs. Hale was expecting her baby, the school board wouldn't accept her resignation. She kept teaching until the fourth of June and her little girl, Eleanor, was born on the fifth, in the tiny teacherage above Dniester School, with her mother and Mrs. Zeiner serving as midwives. Mr. Hale and Mr. Zeiner, meanwhile, had gone for the doctor, but all was over on their return.

Clee Hale acted as substitute teacher for ten days, while Beulah convalesced.

When she resumed teaching, her mother cared for the baby during school hours.

At Christmas time Mrs. Hale bought presents for all her pupils, having instituted the first Christmas concert ever to be held in Dniester school.

To digress a moment: Those were the days when, come March 17, many a teacher, in her one-room, rural school, would set her pupils to cutting our green paper shamrocks and pasting them ground the edges

who wished they were Irish"--from miles around, would jig, reel and fox trot until the midnight waltz. when all would choose partners for Irish stew from a large, iron kettle, having been kept warm atop the large, pot-bellied, wood-burning heater.

The time finally came when the Hales could take up residence on their homestead, eight miles to the northeast.



Clee Hale with his team on the homestead 1924.

Fortunately for the Hales, as well as for other homesteaders in the area, sawmills, timber, and rough lumber were plentiful, the only shortage being siding.

Thus, by the fall of 1924, Clee's little two-room shack was completed except for the siding of two walls, which had to go through the winter with a covering of tar-paper only.

The little garret under the rafters, accessible by ladder only, was to serve as Beulah's mother's bed

chamber.

The Hales moved from the teacherage to this little homestead shack from which, to Dniester school and back, Beulah travelled sixteen miles per day. The going was pretty rough much of the time. If her mare, Fly, and her two-wheeled cart weren't almost mired in mud and muskeg in the spring and in the rainy season (which seemed always), Fly and the cutter were almost lost in the snow-drifts in the winter. Often in a blinding blizzard, Beulah almost got lost, as there were no road allowances nor fences to guide her.



Beulah Hale and her horse "Fly." 1924

As often as not, at other times, she had to get her horse and rig off the road and into the deeper muck in the summer time, and into the deeper drifts in the winter time to allow as many as ten lumber loads in a row to either stay on the trail or get stuck - which would have been a major catastrophe, indeed.

That first winter on the Hale homestead was a tough one. If the wood fire in the heater burned itself out in the night it turned cold in the shack; so cold, in fact, that Mrs. Hale had to hold her little baby in her arms to keep her warm in bed. Clee, one night, believed he had one of his ears, nipped by the frost. The ice on the water in the pail had to be broken in the mornings before the teakettle could be put on to boil.

Beulah Hale continued teaching at Dniester until 1925, when she contracted for Progress, a school nearer her home.

It was in 1928, as the Hales were preparing to move off their homestead, to property farther east, that their little daughter, Eleanor, two years and eight months old, passed away, while Beulah's mother, Mrs. Zimmerman, followed shortly after residence had been taken up in the new home.

The nearest contact with the outside world those days was Calmar, some 12 miles away, although there was a post office in a homesteader's shack, about a mile southwest of the present site of the village of Thorsby.

Once a month during the summer, the Hales had to pick their day, if they wished to use their "Model-T", for travelling to Calmar for supplies. The roads had to be dry or else they were doomed to spend their travelling time removing the hard packed gumbo from between the fenders and the wheels, so that they might turn.

Hauling grain to the market was another matter. Since there were as yet no grain elevators in Calmar, the grain had to be hauled to Leduc, over twenty miles away. This had to be done by horse teams and sleighs on the snow, in dead of winter, to avoid summer's mud, gumbo, swamps and rough corduroy roads.

When the hamlet of Thorsby was born, following the laying of the C.P.R. rails this far east, in 1929, Mrs. Hale taught her classes in the hamlet in a little hall prior to the building of the first school house.

After teaching in the Thorsby area ten years, Beulah Hale hung up her chalk and strap and turned her compassionate hand to help rear other people's children, twenty-nine by full count.

While many of these twenty-nine were given a home at Hale's from one to thirteen years, two were even adopted for life, namely: Bruce Hale and Judy (Hale) Stalknecht.

Bruce Hale is raising and breeding Arabian horses--having thirty of them at the present time.

It is little wonder, then, that Beulah Hale earned the title of "Mom Hale".



Mr. & Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Schoonover.

Not only was the Hales' welcome mat out for children, it also spelled "welcome" to all neighbors and wayfarers.

This hospitable woman, engaged in the middle of washing clothes, might, as often as not, invite someone in for a "southern" noonday meal of "hominy grits" and beans.

Clee Hale passed away in 1972, but "Mom Hale" still resides on the farm. Although she has given up operating a tractor in the fields during seeding and harvest, she busies herself with routine duties of keeping house for her son, Bruce, baby-sitting her grandchildren, or wheeling her pick-up to Thorsby, Leduc, Wetaskiwin, etc., on business, and perhaps social calls.

THE WALTER HAMULA FAMILY

by Walter Hamula

Walter left Calmar as a young man of seventeen. He came to what is now commonly called the "Thorsby Ski Hill", to homestead. Here he batched for 4 years while clearing the land on the flats. For exercise in those years, Walter and his hired man used to swim across the North Saskatchewan River.

In 1940, Walter met and married Jean Rodosh of Calmar. Walter and Jean lived on the farm until 1949. Their son Phillip was born in 1942. Phillip attended Fruitland School until the family moved to Thorsby in 1949.

Walter then went into the trucking business which was aptly named "Thorsby Transport". Walter trucked until 1954. Walter sold the trucking business to Fred





Marriage of Phil Hamula - with parents Mr. & Mrs. Walter Hamula & sister Sherry.

Lise-Marie Hamula, granddaughter of the Walter Hamula's 1977. Snider at that time. He then joined Imperial Oil. He was Thorsby bulk agent for 21 years, until his retirement from the company in 1975. At the time of his retirement. Walter was the Imperial Oil agent with the most years of service in the company.

During those years a second bundle of joy, Sherry,

arrived at the Hamula household in 1956.

Throughout their years in Thorsby the Hamulas have been very active in community affairs. Both are active members of the Roman Catholic Church. Jean has curled and been an active and dependable member of the Thorsby Community League. Walter is a charter member of the Thorsby Lions' club. He served on Village Council for 7 years. Walter was also the founder of the Thorsby Ski Hill where, although the hill is no longer used for skiing; through Walter's generosity many snowmobilers and motorcyclists enjoy both summer and winter fun.

Phillip finished his high school in Thorsby. After high school he attended Campion College in Regina for 3 years, then returned to the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Phillip is now married to the former Lorraine Buehler, of Edmoton. They have a daughter, Lise-Marie. Phillip is now vice-president of The Associates a finance company in Toronto. As a teenager, Phillip was very athletic and called "Hammy", the left-handed pitcher, by his friends.

Sherry finished her high school in Thorsby and now has gone to the University of Alberta and achieved a Bachelor of Commerce degree. She is presently working in Edmonton.

Walter is presently employed by the County of Leduc. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling.

Jean works for the Provincial Government on a part-time basis, while still being very active in community affairs.

The Hamulas have a lake cottage where they and their friends enjoy many fun-filled hours in the summer months.

DR. MEYERS HANKIN

by Leona Hankin

On March 17, 1930, Dr. Meyers Hankin arrived in Thorsby. This was his first practice after graduating in Medicine from the University of Manitoba, and after spending 2 years in residence at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton.

He set up his small office in the back of the Drug Store, and moved into Room 2 of the Thorsby Hotel, where he lived for the next 4 years.

During those early depression years, the life of a country doctor was not an easy one, but Dr. Hankin carried on through all conditions of roads and weather. For a few years, special days were set aside each week when the doctor visited the neighboring towns of Calmar, Warburg, and Breton. With the assistance of Mrs. Burgess, a maternity hospital was established in



DR. M. HANKIN



Mrs. Leona Hankin.



Dr. David Hankin, son of Dr. & Mrs. M. Hankin

the Burgess home. This small hospital continued to operate until Dr. Hankin left Thorsby to join the army in 1941.

In 1934, Dr. Hankin hired Victor Johnson, a local carpenter, to build him a house on the highway next to the Lutheran parsonage. In October of the same year, he and Miss Leona Blades were married and moved into their new home.

Miss Blades first came to Thorsby in the summer of 1930, to visit Mr. and Mrs. John Rolston. Teachers were needed for the new school district and she was offered (and accepted) the position as teacher of the senior room. Miss Blades continued to teach grades 6 to 9 (later 10 and 11) for 3 years, while living with Mr. and Mrs. Rolston and June. In 1933, she taught in Chauvin for 1 year. On her return to Thorsby, she and Dr. Hankin were married.

In July, 1935, David William Hankin was born. When he was 6 years old he started school, and that same year his father enlisted in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. Dr. Hankin spent the next 4 years in the Army--2 in Canada and 2 in England and Scotland. During those years, there was no doctor between Rimbey and Leduc. He returned home to his family, friends, and patients in 1945, and continued to practise until he became ill in 1970. After a somewhat lengthy illness, Dr. Hankin passed away on November 15, 1971.

He is remembered by many of his friends for his love of hunting and sports. He was an avid curler and 3 different years his rink won the Provincial Doctor's bonspiel. He was a season ticket holder for Edmonton Eskimo games for over 20 years.

David Hankin spent his Elementary and High School years in Thorsby, graduating in 1953. Following in his father's footsteps, he enrolled in the Medical Faculty at the University of Alberta. He graduated in 1960 with a degree in Medicine, and a Bachelor of Science degree. David's next 6 years were spent doing Post-graduate work in Edmonton, Vancouver, England, and Memphis, Tennessee, where he received his Certification of Orthopaedic Surgery.

In 1962, Dr. D. Hankin was married to Miss Joyce Mitchell, R.N., a graduate of the Royal Alex. School of nursing. They now have 4 children. For the last 11 years, they have lived in Redding, California.

Mrs. Hankin still resides in Thorsby and is involved in work for the Library, Community League, and Red Cross.

S. NEIL HENRY AND FAMILY

submitted by Maxine Henry

Neil was employed and apprenticed by Vern Muth Sales in 1971 as Parts Manager. He commuted from Wetaskiwin until November 1972, when their home was completed in Thorsby. Maxine did the bookkeeping at Vern Muth Sales until June 1974. Both of their children were born while living in Thorsby — Gregory Neil, January 6, 1973, and Timothy James, April 5, 1975.

Neil began working for R. Angus in Edmonton in 1974, where he completed his Parts Apprenticeship and became Parts and Service Sales Representative. With that promotion, the family rented their home out in Thorsby and moved to Ft. McMurray, returning May 1977.



Maxine and Neil Henry in their Klondike costumes in 1972.



Greg and Tim Neil in 1978.

What a pleasant change it was for this family to move back to their house, yard and friendly neighbors, after living for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years in a trailer, and in a "boom" town. Neil is now Parts and Service Sales Representative for R. Angus in Edmonton.

Neil is an active member of the Thorsby Volunteer Fire Department.

THE JOHN HIER FAMILY

John was born in Russia in 1903. His father died shortly before he was born. His mother remarried when he was 2 years old. In 1907 they came to Canada and settled in the Medicine Hat area, farming there for several years. In 1926 they came to the Leduc district where he worked for different farmers clearing land and breaking. Two years later he bought a farm south of Warburg, breaking some land on it, but the crop froze that fall, so that meant working out again. He went to work for Otto Grubert that fall and the next summer did land-breaking in the Leduc area.

I was born in the Leduc district and grew up there. This is where I met John. My maiden name was Lillian Weidman. My parent's names were Fred and Rosina Weidman. We were married in March 1930 and moved out to his farm.

Having grown up in the area where neighbours were close and roads good, I found it very lonely out there. There were no roads and only 2 families near us. We decided to leave that farm and bought a quarter of land 1 mile east of Sunnybrook. The depression had hit by that time, and things were very bad. Jobs were hard to get, so that winter John would go out west and cut tamarack rails and haul them to Leduc and trade them for grain. He also hauled 500 rails to Wetaskiwin in exchange for a team of horses.

We had a Model T-Ford which he converted to a wood-sawing machine and did custom-sawing for farmers in the area. He also added a grinder and did custom grinding for people. Things were tough but we were happy. In 1932 our daughter Doreen was born.

Farming was not too successfu as our land was in a low-lying area so it got the early frost, and in the spring was too wet to seed. In the fall of 1933 our second daughter Veona was born. We were snowed in that fall so decided we couldn't make a go of it there. We rented a farm east of Leduc, staying there for 3



Curling and skating rink about 1942 with Doreen, Lyle and Veona Hier.

years — things were getting better. Our son Lyle was born in Leduc.

Then the opportunity came to buy a half-share in the Chop Mill in Thorsby which was owned by his half-brother Alf Sulz, and Emil Fink. We moved to Thorsby in May, 1936. After several years of doing custom grinding and running the power plant for the hamlet, he sold his share of the mill and took over the Massey Harris Agency in connection with the Blacksmith Shop. When the war broke out things were very hectic. As it was impossible to get hired help I also worked in the shop heating plow shares for John to sharpen. It was hard work, but we were happy. In 1945 we were blessed with another daughter, Sharon.

Thorsby had grown quite rapidly and was incorporated to Village status in 1950. John was Thorsby's first mayor. He served on Council for many years and was instrumental, in conjunction with the Thorsby Board of Trade in getting village status. This then enabled them to go to the Government and



John and Lil with daughter Doreen in 1932.



John Hier's Implement Shop with his wife and children on right. In 1936, Fink house.



Louis Hostyn Family. L. to R. Darryl, Debbie, Dwayne, Louis & Doreen (parents), Lorne and Dianne Hostyn.

borrow money at $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ interest for financing the water and sewer system — against much local opposition. Through his efforts it finally was possible and in 1954 the water and sewer system was installed.

In 1952 our youngest, a son, Don was born. John bought a school bus route in 1954 and drove until 1965. We bought a farm in the Telfordville area and farmed until 1969, but continued to live in Thorsby. Due to ill health John sold the business in 1962, but continued farming until 1969 when he fully retired.

Our family all grew up and attended school in Thorsby. Our oldest daughter Doreen married Louis Hostyn, who came to Thorsby with a Seismic crew in 1949. They had 5 children, Dwayne - married Marilyn Phillips, and they live north of Devon; Darryl; Debbie - married to Gordon Bernes the local plumber, and they have 3 sons, (Clinton, Sheldon, and Dustin); Lorne; and Diane who passed away in May, 1978. Louis is in the well-drilling business in Thorsby. Veona married Leo Zingel and they have 5 boys, namely Ron of Calgary; Jack of Drayton Valley; Doug; Dale; and Tim at home. Leo operated Hi-Way Motors until 1978. Lyle married Josephine Blondheim and they have 2 children, Colleen and Jonathan. Both Lyle and Josephine taught school in Leduc until this year. Lyle and Larry Kuzio purchased Leo Zingel's garage and are carrying on the business. Sharon married Larry Kuzio, originally from this district, and they have 2 daughters, Tammy and Melanie. They lived in Edmonton until this year then moved back to Thorsby. Our youngest son, Don, married Bonnie Beregszazi and they reside in Calgary.

After several years of illness John passed away on Dec. 25th, 1974. Fortunately all of the family were home and together Christmas Eve, this being a family tradition throughout the years of our married life.

After many years of working at the telephone office and the drug store, I am very fortunate to be in good health and still work part time in the local drug store. Some of my family are living close to me which I find very comforting. The others I'm sure, when they come back to Thorsby, feel they're coming home.

DR. MYERS HANKIN 1930 TO 1971

by Gwendolyn Ross

Dr. Myers Hankin came to the tiny new hamlet of Thorsby to open a medical practise on March 17, 1930. He was one of 52 doctors who had replied to a request for a doctor for the farming community, which had recently been connected to the Edmonton markets through the completion of the C.P.R. railroad from Breton to Leduc.

His application had been accepted because of his background as a dairy farmer's son who grew up in Manitoba. The board who received the numerous applications, decided he would be more likely to adjust to the rugged country that was sparsely settled with settlers, who came from a variety of backgrounds and as many countries. He could speak Ukrainian, Russian and German languages well enough to communicate with the people who formed a large part of the population around Thorsby. He was young, having just finished his internship at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton.

The first few years of his life in the hamlet were very busy ones. He lived in the Thorsby Hotel, and being an avid sportsman, was involved in all forms of sports in the community. If someone needed his advice or medical attention when the office was closed they would find him at the curling rink or at a hockey game.

The roads were hardly fit to be called roads in the 1930's and with the frequent rains they were often quagmires. Even in Thorsby it was sometimes necessary to use a raft, water trough or boat, if someone was fortunate enough to own one, to reach the business district from their homes. He often was called to the logging camps and sawmills in the western regions of Breton, Antross and Winfield, where the patient might be a man severely hurt in a sawing accident or hurt by a falling tree.

Babies were a common commodity in the depression years and he delivered them all the way from east of Calmar, north to the river and west as far as settlers had ventured in that wild country of tall timber and muskeg. He once remarked that if he could collect for all the infants he delivered, he could live well without any further practise. Unfortunately this wasn't to be.

Oldtimers remember a case where he transported his patient to a city hospital by driving on the railroad tracks because the roads were impassable.

In 1934 Myers decided a helpmate would be a welcome addition to his solitary life and chose Miss Leona Blades to be his wife. She was also of pioneer stock and had arrived in Thorsby to teach school before there was even a school building erected. Leona and Mrs. Beulah Hale taught their first classes in a dance hall that was situated on the present site of the Bank of Montreal. A curtain was hung to divide it into two classrooms.

His choice was a happy one and in 1935 their one and only child arrived, a son, named David William

Hankin. This little boy would grow up and one day follow in the footsteps of his father. His practise would be established in a much more populated area than Thorsby and he would specialize. Those far away events were of no concern in the late 1930's however, as friends and patients watched with interest the growth of "the Doc's little son".

The flooded creeks, corduroy roads, no roads at all, deep snow drifts in winter, no telephones, country schools infested with head lice, measles epidemics, an outbreak of typhoid fever in the mid '30's, diphtheria, ruptured appendix, pneumonia, tonsillitis, heart attacks, accidents and the ever present 'flu cases kept him constantly on the go. One could see Dr. Hankin rushing out from the drugstore with his black bag and hailing someone to drive him anywhere, anytime of the day. His home was no sanctuary either as demands came there for medical care too. It might be a patient suffering from an infected tooth or a frantic parent because one of their children was seriously ill at home.

The homes weren't any better than the roads. Some were so tiny and dark he could scarcely find his patient, others were so cold and drafty he feared for the patient's survival. One woman remembers that when the doctor arrived at her humble home consisting of a little log cabin with snow blowing through the cracks onto her homemade bed, he exclaimed, "My God woman! You can't have a baby here". She was quite indignant and proceeded to give birth to a bouncing boy who thrived in the environment.

He spent numerous hours beside the bedsides of very sick people who recovered, often perhaps due to his sheer determination to keep them from dying. He would respond to a call from an expectant mother and, upon arriving at the home, find the baby probably wouldn't make an appearance for several hours. He would bed down on the couch, a chair or even the floor during the night so as to be on the spot when needed. This writer recalls assisting Dr. Hankin to deliver a niece in 1939 about 2 a.m. The relative assigned to administer the ether mask passed out on the floor from its effect and he had to revive her, before once again turning his attention to the important matter at hand. On this same night he had driven over a registered collie dog that was unseen in the rough driveway. He obligingly returned the next day and brought an assistant and, again with painstaking care, set the dog's leg and placed it in a plaster cast. No charge of course.

Dr. Hankin was that kind of man, nothing was too small to escape his notice. If he were making a call in the home and the kids were huddled around a little coal oil lamp with a smoked up chimney he would scold them about ruining their eyes by trying to read in the dark. Some kids feared him, he did have a gruff manner sometimes, but if those same children were sick he gave them very tender attention and showered them with unsold comic books from the drugstore or chocolate bars. He had a heart of gold and very tender

nature under the seemingly rough exterior.

He left the community to serve overseas in the Second World War and when he returned conditions began to improve. Farmers were beginning to receive better prices for their products. The municipality had more money to spend on road work and everyone was optimistic about the future. Soon oil was discovered near Leduc and jobs were plentiful. People still fell and broke their bones, sicknesses occurred as previously, but there was more money and the doctor was assured of a bit of it. Local people could buy cars and the houses were replaced with bigger ones, some even managed to install plumbing, and central heating became common in the community. Telephones and electricity were installed in rural areas.

The old drugstore building was renovated and enlarged so that Dr. Hankin could have a proper office. Patients still had to wait in the store until he called their names (there was never a receptionist). His little office was increased in size and three more rooms were allowed him, one for storing medical supplies and one was supposedly to be a waiting room. It never quite became that, however, during the early 1950's when he performed tonsillectomies, (with help from other medical people), the patients were moved into that room until they recovered slightly and could be taken home by their families. Many local children underwent that operation under the doctor's skillful hands and regained consciousness in the little front room.

Times improved to the extent that the busy doctor could even enjoy a brief holiday, not often, but once in a great while he might get away for a few days.

With better living conditions and prosperity, also came the prospect of failing health. Soon the doctor who had helped so many was in poor health himself. Friends watched his courageous fight and determined will to carry on, with sympathy and also pride in his fortitude.

Finally, the busy doctor who had delivered over 1000 babies and endured countless hardships, was forced to cease his practise and closed his office door permanently on January 16, 1971.

A testimonial dinner was held to honor him, and the village council presented him with a certificate, stating a resolution had been passed, to name centre street (or main as it was commonly known) Hankin Street in honor of him. The Chamber of Commerce gave him a barometer and the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion presented him with a 25 year pin. Over 300 people attended the dinner to visit with the "Doc" and his good wife who had been a loyal supporter and helpmate to him for so long.

Dr. Myers Hankin died in Nov. 1971 and was buried in the Field of Honor in Beechmount Cemetery in Edmonton.





Joe Hoffman holding one of his young sons, Tim.



J.P. Hoffman's store in Calmar in 1916.

A FAMILY AFFAIR THE HOFFMAN STORY

The year was 1910, when Joseph Paul Hoffman immigrated to Canada. The first stop was Winnipeg and after two years the unsettled area further west beckoned. It started with a wagon full of merchandise, a horse, and Joe Hoffman, selling wares to farmers in the Calmar district. Finally, in 1914, the rain and mud persuaded him to stay undercover, so he decided to establish a general merchandise store in Calmar which was called "Hoffman's Store".

This ambitious business operation occupied a portion of the blacksmith's shop. Joe married local girl, Elsie Oslund, and they, shortly thereafter, had two sons, Roy and Tim. Tim became a local hockey star and Roy fished and hunted the surrounding district. Often, the boys recall walking to school holding hot potatoes in their hands to keep them warm.

Much of the business at this time was based on trading farmers' produce for general store goods. Consequently, more than one evening was spent trying to catch and shoot escaped turkeys hiding in the trees. As the settlers became more numerous, the business prospered and soon more help was needed. With hopes set high and a keen sense of determination, Frank and Stanley Hoffman arrived in Canada from Poland in 1922. Their apprenticeship included dressing chickens, into the wee hours of the morning, weighing and bagging goods, and keeping the big wood and coal stove going, providing warmth and cheer for the travellers. The store was the focal point for meeting neighbors, trading goods, and information. In many instances, banking transactions and messages were done at the store as Leduc was the nearest centre with telephone, telegraph, and bank facilities; and the 10 miles from Calmar to Leduc was an arduous trip. Rain or blizzards did not deter these young men and many a Saturday night was spent pushing a car to a wedding dance or social. The work was hard, which seemed to make the good times so much more joyful.

The area kept on developing and again help came from overseas. This time, it was their younger brother Caspar who arrived in 1928.

In 1929, the railroad pushed east to Thorsby, so Joe, in partnership with Matt Samardzic Sr., opened a general store, "Thorsby Traders", in the new village. The store was managed by Caspar and his assistant student, Roy Hoffman, until wedding bells rang for Caspar and he left for new horizons in New Norway. Joe had bought out Matt Samardzic's share of the business and a young student (Roy) was not able to run Thorsby Traders alone. Help was needed.

Frank, had by this time, established a separate hardware store in Calmar across the street from the general store. The boys were now enjoying new bachelor quarters above the store. Many an evening was spent listening to "Boston Blackie" on one of the first radios in the area, or each one practising a musical instrument. However, the new west called Frank further west to take over Thorsby Traders. This new position included shooting prairie chickens that had come to roose on the building to avoid the perennial



Hoffman brothers. L. to R. Joe, Stanley, Frank and Casper. Joe was general manager of the stores. Stanley and Frank were with the Calmar stores and Casper managed Thorsby Traders at the time this picture was taken early 1930's.



Hoffman's Hardware - 1936.

"pond" that existed in Thorsby. The two stores in both Calmar and Thorsby were thus established and flourishing, together with the growth of the family and the area. Helena and Albina Hoffman left Poland to join their brothers in 1936, helping out in Calmar and Thorsby respectively.

In 1937, Frank returned to Poland for a family visit and returned to Canada with his young wife, Mary. She didn't find the North American skyscrapers she had been told about in school; as a matter of fact, tears were shed when she thought a surprise 'shivaree' that



Albina and Helen Hoffman at the back of the Thorsby Traders Store. Living quarters were above the store.

the Thorsby men held for the newlyweds was an Indian raid.

In 1942, Frank sold Thosby Traders and due to restrictions on building size permits in effect during World War II, Frank built the "little store" on main street Thorsby for commerce in hardware. Hoffmans in Calmar burned down in 1944, and the family, except for Frank and Stanley, dispersed. Stanley moved to Thorsby to help in the store. Joe semi-retired, and his sons, Tim and Roy, opened a hardware business in Barrhead. Joe managed to continue his merchandising ways by setting up a honey hardware. Helen and Albina moved to Thorsby and lived with Frank's family, until Albina joined a convent in 1947, and Helen returned to Poland to live in 1965.

Hoffman's Hardware at its present location opened in 1946, and it was no small affair. There was an orchestra, a lunch, and even an official cake-cutting ceremony. People very politely waited and waited for Frank and Mary to have the first dance and fortunately the music did not go to waste as they 'eventually' realized it was a custom in Canada for the host and hostess to begin the dancing rather than the guests.

Hoffman's Hardware survived the mud and trials of growing with a new town, and like the community it served, prospered to become a successful business.



Pigeon Lake picnic. L. to R. Mrs. Stefania Zolkiewski, Helen Hoffman, Albina Hoffman, David Ross and Casper Hoffman.

Frank's family also was no small affair, as after Hedy and Irene, children were born in pairs. Angie and Richard were the first twins in the family, followed 5 years later by Katherine and Barbara. To complete the family of 7 children, Michael was born in 1957. Mary at one time, set the table daily for 11 people - the extended family in operation.

The children attended school in Thorsby and each carries fond memories of school concerts, plays, ice shows in the "old" skating rink and the friendship found in a small community. Hedy was the first to leave home and on to business school and the working world; Irene passed away tragically in a car accident in 1959; Richard attended NAIT, Angie worked as a laboratory technician; Katherine and Barbara attended University obtaining education degrees; and Michael is attending NAIT.

When Frank died very suddenly in 1968, Hedy and then Richard, with his family, moved to Thorsby, to manage "The Store that Treats you Right". Richard and Hedy tried to carry on tradition and have expanded the business to better serve the growth and expansion of the community. Stanley is still active in the business, serving customers and enjoying being able to visit and reminisce about the 'good old days'. He is still very active in the Lions Club of which he is a charter member.

The family has also expanded to include 8 grandchildren and Mary has a large table to set when all are home. Mary is known (in an area full of good cooks) as one of the best cooks around "Pigeon Lake". She is still an active church and community worker, and plays a very vital part in the lives of her family.

Thorsby is still "home" to the entire family. There is a close bond between all of them and a sense of accomplishment about the wholesome and prosperous lifestyle that had its roots for them and their growing families in a family affair in Thorsby, many years ago.

THORSBY, AS WALTER BODDY REMEMBERS IT

I will give you a very general outline of the Thorsby I knew in 1930 - 1940.

In August, 1930 Jack and Gladys Arthur and children arrived in one truck and one car from Central Butte, Saskatchewan. The family were J.J. (Bud) Boddy, myself Walter Boddy. Mary Arthur, Ruth Arthur and P. Bruce Arthur. Mary is now Mrs. Ohrn and Ruth is Mrs. Gibson.

My first recollection of Thorsby was the original 2 room school under construction. We moved into this school about Christmas 1930. We went to school in Forshner's Dance Hall on the corner west of the hotel from Sept. to Dec. 1930. Mrs. Beulah Hale taught grades 1 to 5 on one side of a dividing curtain and Miss Leona Blades taught grades 6 to 11 or 12 on the other side. After a Saturday night dance we had a tough time finding our desks on Monday morning.

We lived in a house just west of the dance hall for about a year. We were there when the livery stable burned down. It was just north of Bilou's Blacksmith Shop.

Sports. Hockey-Thorsby hired Harvey Robertson of Leduc to play one early winter when they played the Indians at Westerose. They called him "Flying Cloud".

Baseball; Art Rackway and John Sucloy were hired to play ball along with such stars as Bennie Olstad, a Thorsby grain buyer.

The grain buyers were Bennie Olstad for United Grain Growers, Al Downey for the Wheat Pool and J.B. (Ole) Olson for the Pioneer Elevator.

Doctor Hankin was still single in 1930 and lived in the hotel. He played hockey and curled in the winters.

Pharmacists; In 1930 the drug store building was owned by Lafe Schoonover and Keith French was the pharmacist, followed by Harold Armitage and then Joseph Ruzicka.

The cheese factory was originally built about 1931 by Mr. Taylor of Wetaskiwin with Pete Braglin as cheesemaker.

Alex Lepine was barber and violin player in a small band. His barber shop was on Main Street, the present location of the Bank of Montreal. Mike Faraschuk had the other barber shop, a single chair in one corner of his pool room. We could have our hair cut for 25¢ and watch pool at the same time.

Grocery stores; Fred Zingle had a small store which he later sold to Mr. Panar. It was across from the Roman Catholic Church. John Rolston had a grocery store and the post office too. Hoffman's store - Thorsby Traders was the major outlet. I worked there after school and on Saturdays, starting in 1932. I had to unpack eggs (4¢ a dozen) which were packed in chop, oats or barley. People brought in jugs to have filled with vinegar (white and brown) coal oil, high test gas and formaldehyde.





Thorsby's earliest businessmen, 1932. L. to R. John Powlik, Fred Mudry, Ed Kelly (Hotel), Lafe Schoonover, H. Delameter, Matt Samardzic, Bill Cyril, & J.B. Olson.

Joe Ruzicka & his drug store, 1932.

Andy Blomquist was the mailman. Jack Coleman, Vic Johnson and Nick Senetchko were the early carpenters.

The early tough guys were John Babiak, Jesse Schoonover and later Alf Sulz.

Jack Coleman rode a horse into Jim Howe's Victoria Cafe about 1934. I was in the cafe at the time. I remember Gordon Knox, garageman (where Bilar's is now located), Jim Harder, who made red willow plant stands in the Depression, Scotty MacKay who played the bagpipes.

Al Downey is still alive and living in Edmonton. He could be a real source to information about the first days of Thorsby. I remember the mountain lion Maurice Canfield shot on the Oneski farm. He had it lying in front of Ruzicka's Drugstore for a picture.

IMMANUEL PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY OF THORSBY, ALBERTA

by Donald K. Vath and Adeline (Vath) Dedio

In the early days of 1922 there were very few churches if any, and those were too far away for us, the district and area residents. To most, this was a vital part of our life style. Our relationship to God and our neighbors were important issues in our lives.

During the winter of 1922 I can recall that we were invited to our first Sunday School held at the Allred farm, which was eventually owned by Mrs. Helen Green for many years. This became a house to house event every Sunday for a number of years. The families involved at that time were our parents the Herb Vaths; P.B. Callaways; Jim Callaways; Martin Stellmachers; E. Helfensteins; and Mr. and Mrs. C. Dehlendorf. When the group became too large it was decided that a more central meeting place was desired, so for a short period of time they met in the Old

Dniester School which proved to be quite successful as the attendance grew. This was a nondenominational group consisting of Evangelicals, Lutherans, Catholics, and Baptists. In 1929, the people decided to build a place of worship, to be known as the Union Sunday School.

Mr. P.B. Callaway donated a parcel of land on his farm the N.E. 33-48-1-W5. Our father, Herb Vath, being a carpenter, undertook the job of supervising the building of the church with volunteer help. This being a nondenominational group the congregation was served by a different minister each Sunday: United, Baptist, Pentecostal and Evangelical. Homes were made available for them to stay at, which included ours, as the mode of travel was by horse and buggy then. As there was little money with which to pay them for their services, people would supply them with potatoes, vegetables, dairy products, eggs, poultry, home-made sausage, and ham in place of money, so they would go well provided to the next time around.

The young people were active in Sunday School and young people's meetings, which were held once a month, gave us all practice in conducting a service and using our talents in music and singing, giving short sermonettes. There was the occassional get together in the homes for a party where games were played, such as: musical chairs; clap in-clap out; button, button who has the button and numerous others, followed with a lunch and good home-made ice cream.

The first weddings were those of William Zingle - Cora Dedio in 1932; Chris Bilou - Marie Hanson in 1933; and Garnet Clouston - Edith Callaway in 1936; Newton Stellmacher - Shirley Callaway in March 1939.

A tent meeting held on the Anton Dedio farm yard in the summer of 1937 by the Pentecostal Movement,



Dedication of the church, 1939.

led by the Rev. Walter S. Fredericks, brought together people from the various nationalities; Polish, Ukrainian, German and English. Thus the Pentecostal Church was established and until the Thorsby Pentecostal Tabernacle was completed and dedicated in 1939 on the Fred Harrish farm S.W. 3-49-1-W5, the meeting place was in homes and periodically in the old Union Sunday School building. This new church and the Calmar church were the last churches that our father helped build.

Two laymen, Mr. R. Pohl and Mr. William Miller from the Wiesenthal Church in Leduc district took charge of the services every Sunday morning and evening in the English and German languages. Occasionally a Slavic minister would come and hold a week of special services for our Slavic members. Mr. Ralph Mogdan was Sunday School Superintendent for many years. The first pastor was a student minister, Ewald Guze, followed by another student, Herbert Weurch. Other pastors were Pastor Steiner, Pastor Kabanak, and Pastor Ron Dowbush. The church was a place of activity for the children and young people alike; with the choir, orchestra, young peoples' rallies, Easter and Christmas programs. Highlights of the church activities were: Special Evangelical Services; spring and fall festivals with the neighboring churches; and weddings over the years.

The first wedding in the new church was that of Peter Dedio - Adeline Vath on Nov. 1, 1939. The next wedding was that of Ewald Guze - Helen Dedio on July 29, 1944. In 25 years, there were about 25 marriages performed. With each generation there was

a decline in attendance, as the older folk retired to the towns and cities, and the young folk leaving for the city for a job, or farther afield. In 1964, Pastor Ron Dowbush and a number of young people got together with a few older ones as well, to plan for a new church building in the town of Thorsby, where water and sewer services were available. As our young people (the Vaths) were included in this group, my wife and I joined them. As I, Don Vath, am a carpenter by trade, I was called upon to take charge of the construction on this project. This time the carpenters changed from father to son. With the help of Peter Dedio, Pastor Ron Dowbush, Lawrence and Allen Dublanko, and 2 of my sons, the building got under way and later others joined the forces and the final result is in evidence today. A welcome is extended to friends and strangers alike to worship with us at any time.



Present day Immanuel Pentecostal Tabernacle of Thorsby, 1978.

The Thorsby Pentecostal Tabernacle built in 1939 on 1.8 acres was sold in 1972 to Mr. and Mrs. Bill McGowan for \$1800.00. The interior was partitioned and made into living quarters, the outside has been left intact.

Immanuel Pentecostal Assembly of Thorsby have their fourth pastor to date the Rev. Alwyn J. Coleman. The previous pastors were: the Rev. Ronald Dowbush, now pastoring in Delta B.C.; Rev. Leonard Kokot, retired from the ministry due to ill health; Rev. Glenn Rhind, now pastoring in Rutland B.C. There are 10 families presently involved who attend and support the church regularly.

JOE KARPA

Joe Karpa immigrated to Canada from Vilkaviskis, Lithuania in the fall of 1929. Arriving in Vegreville, Joe worked for a year as a farm labourer. For the following 3 years, he worked as a blacksmith's helper in Hughenden as well as doing odd farm labour jobs during harvesting for farmers in the area. Joe also did watch repairs in any spare time he had. In 1933, Joe and his brother Pete moved to Thorsby and bought the Blacksmith Shop. They offered such services as shoeing horses, fixing wagons and sharpening plowshares. In the evenings Joe worked on watch repairs and, as he was the only person who repaired watches in a 50-mile radius, he often worked until midnight.

In 1934, Joe purchased a 1928 Model T. Ford. With his new car, he was able to visit the local farmers and his Lithuanian friends, the Frankos', Bendoritises, Yasunskis, Pletniks, Shakus and Anton Vasiliauskas. Joe married a Lithuanian girl from Spirit River, Adele Rimkunas, on Nov. 24, 1940. In 1941 Joe's brother, Pete, moved to Bluffton where he opened his own Blacksmith Shop with financial assistance from Joe. Since there was a lot of work, Adele assisted Joe in the Thorsby Blacksmith Shop until 1947 when they closed the shop.



Joe Karpa repairing watches at his home in Thorsby.

Joe and Adele then bought the hotel in Gadsby. In April, 1949, they were blessed with a daughter, Shirley. They drove to Thorsby to have her baptized. In the spring of 1950, they sold Gadsby Hotel, moved back to Thorsby and re-opened the Blacksmith Shop. The Karpas sold the Blacksmith Shop in 1951 to Mr. John Powlick and in trade, took over his share in the Coronation Hotel. They were owners and managers of the hotel until 1970 when they sold the hotel and retired in Calgary. Their daughter, Shirley, her husband Ray and their 2 children, Mark and Raina also live in Calgary.



Joe & Pete Karpa beside their Blacksmith Shop in Thorsby after a fishing trip.



The back of Karpas' Blacksmith Shop.

JOHN KEASCHUK

Late in 1946, my brother Steve and I lost the general store we were operating in Norquay, Sask., in a fire. We purchased another building in Norquay but it required some alterations and repair. This was shortly after World War II and many building materials were still scarce.

At this time Lukianchuk and Cybak, the owners of Nu-Way Store at Thorsby, offered us easy-payment terms on the purchase of their business. As the building in Thorsby was better and did not require immediate alterations, we accepted their offer.

Learning about Thorsby and surrounding area was an interesting experience for me. It happened that Steven Cybak was the treasurer of the Thorsby Curling Club for the 1946-47 season and I was just handed the records from him when he moved out of town. This gave me an opportunity to meet people in a short time. There was a rink of curlers under the name of Glen Park but it was always skipped by Mel Anderson or John Harrison. I was looking forward to meeting "Mr." Glen Park, till I found out that Glen Park was not a man but a district.

Thorsby, being a hamlet till 1950, did not have any local governing council as a village or a town would have. The Board of Trade (now Chamber of Commerce) was an active organization that served as a meeting place where many local problems were discussed and resolved. One of the items discussed during the late '40s was fire protection, which led to the purchasing of a fire siren. At these B of T meetings we learned that Thorsby would have lower fire insurance rates if we had water. The Board of Trade was the kingpin leading to Thorsby's incorporation as a village in 1950. It then made it possible to think about installing water and sewerage.

After Thorsby's first village council election I was pleasantly surprised to be elected as one of the councillors. The other 2 were Fred King and John Hier. I had been an Albertan for only 3 years at that time and had no experience in such a position. It was fortunate that one of the councillors, John Hier, was a resident of Thorsby and area for many years. He



Members of Thorsby Village Council in 1951. L. to R. Fred King, John Hier, Roy Sparks, John Powlik, Onif Lukianchuk, Bill Ternoway (back to camera) John Keaschuk and George Radowits partially hidden.

agreed to accept the task of mayor. The first large project the council tackled was water and sewerage. It was not a simple matter. Engineers had to make a survey and prepare a report as to cost of the system. A plebiscite had to be taken before this project could start. Money could not be borrowed until authorities in Edmonton were satisfied that an adequate supply of water was found. A number of deep wells were drilled and tested but rejected as not reliable. A water supply from the creek was approved but that required an extra loan and another plebiscite for this portion. After two tries, Thorsby voters approved the extra loan

It was fortunate that the water and sewerage project was started at that time, as the village managed to borrow money at a lower rate. (I believe it was at 2½%). The rate for the additional loan was already higher.

The duties of Mayor Hier, at that time, were often encroaching on the time for his own business. He, at times, was discouraged but continued till water and sewerage in Thorsby was a reality in 1954. The valuable cooperation of Roy Sparks as the village secretary deserves commendation. During this time I was gradually becoming more disabled but continued staying on council to assure a majority vote on matters relating to the water and sewerage project.

In retrospect, I must admit that the first council of Thorsby failed in one facet of the village business. We failed to establish a salary or some form of remuneration for ourselves as councillors. Perhaps, it would also have given us a sense of prestige in discussing a raise for us on occasions when the secretary or the garbage man was pleading for a raise. The net result, in terms of dollars and cents, of that failure could be expressed as, "all that time and work for nothing". But then, nobody is perfect and it could be that it saved us from "passing the hat around" among the ratepayers.

I resigned from council due to ill health. Later I disassociated myself from the Nu-Way Store business as I could not continue as an active partner.

After adapting to the Thorsby environment and Alberta in general I entitled a school-teacher in Saskatchewan, Kathryn Markowski, to come and see the Thorsby area and its new councillor. We were married in 1950.

Kay was on the Thorsby teaching staff for 19 years, teaching primary grades. During the summers she attended university in order to better her qualifications and keep in step with the newer trends in education. She took an early retirement last June. We are now looking forward to a more relaxed type of living.

I happen to be a victim of a crippling disease called mutiple sclerosis (M.S.). Research to date has not found the cause or a cure. It strikes people in the age group from 10-40. I am now confined to a wheelchair. This means staying at home as small towns and villages are not planned for accessibility with a wheelchair, and



Kay Keaschuk receiving a community gift, at her Retirement Party on June 23, 1978, from her colleague Mavis Hamilton.

that includes Thorsby. In situations where a person is confined to a wheelchair it puts an extra burden on the marriage partner in many ways. I am fortunate that Kay is patient and understanding when I am not.

People like I, who see the world much of the time through a window, do change in their concepts and philosophy. I know that goof balls of the '50s have gone out of style. Now I hear and read in the news media about dope, grass, pot, and addiction. It is interesting how customs and popularity of various products change through the years. Years ago my grandfather smoked homestead (home-grown tobacco), while ON the homestead my mother smoked fish, and children were actually encouraged by parents to use "pot" but there was never a problem of addiction.

It seems so strange, or is my thinking warped?

THE NU-WAY STORE

by Olga Chranowski

The little store on the corner of Hankin St. and 50 Ave. was built sometime in the 30's by Mr. Yaskiw, but did not flourish as he had anticipated. As a result, he sold out to Mr. Malarchuk and returned to farming.

Mr. John Malarchuk moved into the living quarters at the back, but found the operation of the business unrewarding. This, coupled with health reasons induced him, in the fall of 1941, to sell his premises to Mr. and Mrs. Onif Lukianchuk and their



Interior of Nu-Way Stores, Thorsby.

daughter, Zenia. He, himself, ventured into the hotel business.

The Lukianchuks took stock of the situation and decided the store, in order to be successul, needed enlarging. The restyled Nu-Way Store came into being. By the spring they realized they could use extra help; hence the arrival of Steven and Anne Cybak and their two daughters, Irene and Elaine.

As time went by, improvements and renovations took place as much as were possible during the war years.

During the winter of 1946, Pauline Lukianchuk's "home store in Norquay, Sask. burned down. Since they were, at this time, seriously considering the hotel business, they offered to sell to her family, the Keaschuks; Mrs. Anna and her children, John; Steve and his wife, Olga.

In January, 1947 the Keaschuks moved to Thorsby and the Lukianchuks and Cybaks moved to Grimshaw.

By the fall of 1947 the Keaschuks were joined by their brother-in-law, Adam Chranowski, his wife, Olga, and daughter, Sherry.

Extensive renovations for self-service were made and once again the store was enlarged to double its size. Appliances were added to the sales, since Adam came qualified in refrigeration and air-conditioning.

In 1948 Olga Chranowski left her part-time job at the store and joined the teaching staff at Thorsby. In 1950 John's wife, Kathryn, joined the staff of the Nu-Way store.

During the ensuing years as staff came and went, the community and district was served by clerks such as Steve Klimosko, Peter Stashko, Doreen Hostyn, the former Kilik girls - Elizabeth and Helen, Doreen MacRae, Dennis Kuta, Natalie Knull, Ordan Kisser, Anne Tomaszewski, Anne Stashko, Freda Connolly and Freda Snider.

By this time Olga Keaschuk was dividing her time between the store and her two children, Jack and Jeanne.

In 1959 Adam Chranowski left the Nu-Way Store. With the help of his brother, Joe, he opened Thorsby Service Center.



Grandma & Grandpa Chranowski with Granddaughter Melissa.



Mrs. Anna (Grandma) Keaschuk, her children and grandchildren.

In 1961 Steve Keaschuk suffered a fatal heart attack and Adam Chranowski returned to manage Nu-Way Store.

In the winter of 1960 Kay Keaschuk joined the

staff of Thorsby Elementary School.

In November, 1974 the Nu-Way Store closed and the building was taken over by Gordon Bernes.

The Nu-Way Store had served the public for over forty years. Since that time Mr. Malarchuk settled in Edmonton and his family owns and operates Nu-Way Cleaners. Onif and Pauline Lukianchuk are retired from the hotel business and also live in Edmonton. Their daughter, Zenia, receiving her Ph.D in Food Sciences, is now a professor in the Home Economics Department at the University of Alberta. Mrs. Anne Cybak and both daughters also live in Edmonton. Mrs. Olga Keaschuk is living in Edmonton, working with Alberta Health Care, as is her daughter Jeanne, who is a secretary for APEGGA. At the present time Jack and his wife, Evie, are in Africa. John and Kay Keaschuk are both retired in Thorsby. Adam Chranowski is once again operating Thorsby Service Center out of his shop on Hankin St. His wife, Olga, retired from teaching this year. His daughter, Sherry, is not teaching at the present time. She married Bob Sadownik and is at home caring for her father's delightful grand-daughters, Melissa and Laurel.

FRED KING HISTORY

by Ella King

Fred King came to Thorsby in 1947. He was a descendant of the Michael King and Julius Sommers families who were of German origin. They had come to Canada before the turn of the century and settled in the Leduc district, where both Fred and I were born in 1902 and 1905 respectively.

Fred King farmed in the Wiesenthal district from 1923 to 1946. Then he sold out and spent almost a year in Westaskiwin, looking for an opening in the machinery business. Eventually there was a prospect of starting one in Thorsby, which had hopes of a good

future, as it was surrounded by good agricultural land. We were already acquainted with the people who had come to our place every winter to trade lumber for grain in the depression years. Our place, on the farm, was a stopover for anyone who came along. We had plenty of barn room, and our kitchen floor slept many a weary traveller.

In the late fall of 1946 we built a small granary type building to store things until spring. But suddenly, in January, we sold our house in Wetaskiwin and had no alternative but to move to Thorsby at once. It was 20 degree-below weather and the only house we could rent was a log cabin at the south end of town. It was icy cold as everything about it was crooked and nothing would close properly. The gophers and weasels could very easily get in under the doors. It seemed like the end of the world, God's forgotten acre.

Our friends laughed at us and said, "Oh well! you won't starve to death," as just then a rabbit went scooting across the field. They thought we could eat it

if things got really drastic.

In about 2 weeks we were able to move into the Lawrence Ruzicka house, which was modern with waterworks, comprised of 2- 45 gallon oil drums upstairs with pipes connected to our wood and coal range. We had lots of hot and cold running water, really something to be proud of.

That spring we built the cement block building to house the Thorsby Farm Equipment for J.I. Case. It was later New Holland, David Brown and numerous smaller companies. We stayed there for 22 years and Fred earned 2 free trips from the Case Co., one to Nassau, the other to Phoenix, Arizona, for sales promotions.

The building we built is still standing and is in good shape. It was sold to Don Stelter.

We later purchased the Lawrence Ruzicka house, and, also built 2 other modern houses. These were all later sold. The one we lived in prior to leaving Thorsby was bought by the Roman Catholic parish for its rectory.

We have 2 children, a son and a daughter, Howard in the R.C.M.P., is married to Barbara Schenk and is now in Chilliwack, B.C. Evelyn is married to Vern Ladd and they live in Edmonton. She was Mr. Ed



Fred King's J.I. Case Machine Shop.

Bowering's first secretary in the Bank of Montreal in Thorsby.

Fred served on council for 2 terms and was instrumental in incorporating Thorsby into a village, also getting the waterworks started.

I worked in the Alberta Government Telephone office for 9 years. We are now retired and live in Leduc, Alberta.

THE JOHN V. KLEIN FAMILY HISTORY

related by Karolina Klein

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hummel came from Odessa, Russia, in 1899 to the United States. In the spring of 1906 they came with their family to Canada. In Saskatchewan they farmed with a yoke of oxen, and hard as it was, there was humor with it. The oxen would take off for open water to cool off in when they saw it. Work would be delayed until they were satisfied. The couple lived in a sod house and later built one of bricks, which they made from straw and mud. This type of brick was used to build homes with at that time.

They had 6 children and farmed up until 1929 when they moved into Tramping Lake. At the age of 91 Mr. Hummel moved into St. Anne's Home For The Aged in Saskatoon. He passed away there on February 13, 1962 at the age of 93 years. His wife Marianna had predeceased him on September 24, 1938 aged 65 years. Their second oldest son Valentine had died on November 14, 1949. Their youngest child Charles Louie died May 26, 1962.

A Hummel daughter, Karolina Anna, married John Vincent Klein on April 20, 1927 in St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Tramping Lake. Due to a big snow storm that blocked all the roads, the young couple had to resort to traveling by bob sleigh and team. The weather was terribly cold.

Following their wedding John took his bride to Cactus Lake by train. He had been batching on his quarter of land with a one room house on it. They made their home there for 14 years and then moved to a new location, still in the Cactus Lake district. The



new home, included a barn with a straw roof, was about 4 miles from town.

The depression had been very hard on farmers around the district, and during the relief period, clothing, fruit and some calves were distributed to the people. Friends of the ones who did the distribution received the best of the supplies.

After some years the Kleins tore down the old house and rebuilt a larger one approximately a quarter of a mile away. They used the same lumber and nails for the new one.

Often they gathered cow dung chips or horse manure that had dried and used it for heating purposes. Coal and wood were very scarce and any money that could be scraped up during the depression years was needed for other purposes than to buy coal. The children picked up the chips and carried them home in sacks, where they were laid out to dry more. If it should rain they had to be picked up and kept dry otherwise they wouldn't burn. The chips made an unpleasant odor while burning but they provided fuel for cooking when there was no wood. It was prairie land and one couldn't cut trees down as the farmers in bushland could.

To save the chips for winter, the horse manure was packed into big cakes and cut into blocks after it had dried. The blocks were then stacked up and plastered over with fresh cow dung to seal it over for winter's fuel supply.

The fires died out at night so it was very cold, and water in the house in pails would freeze. Food also froze during the cold weather. It was easy to catch colds and hard to get rid of them. Coal oil lamps were the means of lighting as there was no electricity on farms then.

The Klein family consisted of many children and there was only a dozen diapers and 3 little blankets for the baby. During weekdays old rags were used as diapers and Karolina had to wash every day on a wash board.

The children were, Philip who was born February 26, 1928. Anna Marie born May 25, 1929. She became a nun later and is now known as Sister Lorraine, and lives in Edmonton. Little Wendelina died in infancy and John Roman was born March 18,



Mr. & Mrs. K. Klein with members of the family at time of their 35th Wedding Anniv., 1962.

Left - Mr. & Mrs. K. Klein & Family, 1944.

1932. Anthony was born on March 1, 1934. Valentine came next and arrived on May 25, 1935. A daughter Clara Frances was born October 8, 1936. Leo Raymond joined the family of July 6, 1938 and Joseph was born October 14, 1939. Leona arrived on March 23, 1941. Kathleen Karolina was added to the family on May 29, 1943 and Dolores Helen became the last child born on December 2, 1944, and she was born in Alberta.

The family lived in Saskatchewan until 1944 when they moved into Alberta. They brought 15 head of cattle and 12 head of horses and their other possessions by train. Mrs. Klein and their ten children stayed with her sister at Bodo for several days, while John and a young hired man, Mike Sieben, accompanied their possessions to Thorsby. From Thorsby to the Coughlin farm, where they were going a distance of five miles, the cattle were driven. The furniture and machinery were loaded onto their wagon and hayrack and hauled to the new home.

This farm was home to the Kleins for about 6 years and then they moved to S. Hubbard's farm, which they rented and lived on for 3 years. The next home was their own as they purchased a farm from Mr. Nuemann on crop payments and lived on it for eleven years. After farming it until 1964, John decided to retire into Thorsby. They made their home in a comfortable house there until his death on June 29, 1973.

Karolina remains in their home and keeps busy with a variety of handicrafts and her large garden. She was 75 years old on January 25, 1978 and is happy with her eleven children living near enough that they visit her often.

Karolina has kept records over the years and one is of interest as it indicates how much bread a growing family consumed. In 1951 she used two bags of flour weighing 100 lbs. each every month. A year's supply cost \$158.75, from this she baked 1,152 loaves of bread. Besides the flour there were yeast cakes to buy which she estimated cost \$6.00 a year. The family ate 22 loaves each week and, at a price of 14¢ a loaf for bakery bread that year, it would have cost them \$161.28. Considering the amount of work involved in the making of bread she figures it would have been cheaper to buy it. However, it wouldn't have been possible to drive to town that often to get it.

Family tree of the Hummel and Klein family:

Karolina Anna Hummel's parents were Maryann Frohlick (1873 - 1938) and Philip Hummel (1869 - 1962). Her maternal grandparents were Anna and Louie Frohlick.

John Vincent Klein's parents were Anna Marie Krebs (1874 - 1965) and John Klein (1874 - 1915). His paternal grandparents were Magdalena Kebowski and John Klein.

John Vincent was born July 31, 1899 and Karolina was born January 25, 1903.

Their children's place of residence are; Philip in Sherwood Park, Clara Frances (Bawol) also in





Mr. & Mrs. Klein, shortly after their arrival in Alberta, 1944.

Mrs. K. Klein on her 75th birthday.

Sherwood Park, Anthony in Regina, Valentine in Warburg, Leo in Calgary, Delores (Andruschak) in B.C., Kathleen (Kerr) in Leduc, and Leona (Delorme) in Sherwood Park. Sister Lorraine is in Edmonton and assisted her mother with the writing of much of this history.

There are 33 grandchildren:

Murray Russell, Jennifer Theresa (Riddell), David Allen, Tammy Leanne, are the four children of Phil and Dorothy Klein.

Heather and Robert are the children of John and Marj. Klein.

Tanya Deanne, Paul Howard, and Douglas John are the children of Tony and Olga Klein.

Valerie Marjorie, Della Mary, Kelly Valentine, Gerard (deceased 1962), are Val and Marj. Klein's children.

Gerald, Ricky Allen, Laurie Ann and Maryann are Clara and Bernie Bawol's children.

Brenda Cheryl, Darrell Leo, Sharon Lynn, and Dwayne Glen are the children of Leo and Shirley Klein.

Peter John, Marie, Ann and Joseph are Joe and Sharon Klein's family.

Russel Ray, Garry, and Jeffrey John, are Leona and Lee Delorm 6's children.

Corrine, Myles, and Jason are Kathleen Kerr's children.

Mary Janeen and Gerard Paul are Delores Andruschak's children.

Mrs. Karolina Klein has presently one great-grand-child, grandchild of Phil and Dorothy Klein, son of Jennifer Riddell; Kasey Walter Riddell, who was born February 10, 1977.

SAM AND MARLENE KOBELUCK

self-written

Sam, younger son of Victor and Ann Kobeluck, was born June 14, 1948, in Edmonton. He attended a one-room school at Dniester to the third grade. Dniester School was closed down and Sam was bused to Thorsby, where he completed grades 4-12. In 1966 he graduated at the age of seventeen. He then attended the University of Alberta and obtained his degree in B.Ed. in 1970. After graduation he began teaching in Thorsby.

Sam is an active member of the community. He is a member of the Thorsby volunteer firemen, Thorsby Lions' Club, past president of the curling club, vice-president of the Agricultural Society and a member of the Recreation Board. Sam is also very sports minded. He plays hockey with the Warburg-Thorsby Grizzlies, played baseball with Leduc, Breton, Calmar, Glen Park and Thorsby. He won many awards for his efforts in sports. Sam also introduced the Edmonton and District Bantam Football to Thorsby.

Sam married Marlene Kirchner, younger daughter of Garry and Lena Kirchener, on July 30, 1971. Marlene was born Feb. 2, 1951 in Lamont and attended school from grade 1-12 in Thorsby. For one year before getting married she worked in her father's garage.





Sam and Marlene Kobeluck.

Pamela and Shelley Kobeluck.

Sam and Marlene purchased Alex Dublanko's house in Thorsby, where together they are raising two daughters, Pamela Lynn Hope born Aug. 15, 1972, and Shelley Ann Marie born March 9, 1975.

AUDREY AND JOHN KOLESAR

by Audrey and John

Today one would hardly know that Audrey and John Kolesar had ever lived in Thorsby, Alberta. Perhaps if one were to ask the not-too-young to recall former residents of the village, the names may be familiar. Likewise for Audrey and John, Thorsby hardly existed except on a map until January, 1955 when John answered an advertisement in the Western Producer, and history was in the making. Thorsby was

the home of Clee M. Hale who owned a building and business that he was anxious to sell if the right buyer came along. That buyer was to have a little borrowed down payment with no experience, but a great deal of ambition.

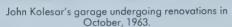
No experience in operating a business is what is referred to above. John had some previous experience in the automotive repair business while laboring for Harris Motors in Castor for 5 years. While in Castor he met and married Audrey Roberts, second youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom McConkey. Audrey came to Thorsby in March of 1955 and she and John took up residence in a house formerly occupied by Roe and Gladys Hancher, who were tenants of Pete Jacubow. Audrey also shared with John, what was to be 13 years in a farm machinery and retail automotive business when money was scarce, gasoline was 39 and 41 cents, and the labor charge was two or three dollars an hour for a tradesman's work.

Of course the interest rate on capital investment or borrowed money was 3% too. This is what John promised to pay Mr. Hale and Pete Jacubow for garage and house respectively. The master charge card was not invented so money, when available, was the medium of exchange. A friendly banker known as Ed. Bowering was everyone's friend and savior. Overdrafts were common and necessary and tolerated. Farmers were friendly as well, but their loyalties were firmly established in other places of business that sold goods that John was also attempting to sell. One can honestly say that times were hard.

Audrey also went to work out of the home. Thanks to the kindly postmaster, John Rolston, Audrey had a part-time job in the Post Office for a number of years while in Thorsby. In addition, a total of 7 young, single persons, (3 young ladies, and 4 young gentlemen), shared at one time or another the home of Audrey and John. Their contributions helped to supplement the earnings of Audrey and John. Indeed, during many days while attempting to pay bills, mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, wages, etc., every last dollar was required. So was the rent money from Thorsby Electric who rented space from Mr. Hale and later for a time from Kolesars. This money helped put coal into the pot-bellied furnaces that had enormous appetites.

From whence did other necessary revenue come? Mr. Hale had franchises for retail Texaco petroleum products and Minneapolis Moline farm machinery that John inherited. Although due to keen competition and other factors, new machinery did not sell in great numbers, parts were needed to maintain the machinery and tractors already in service. The time came when John agreed to sell machinery for Alberta Engineering of Wetaskiwin, namely Vicon hay rakes, Aktiv mowers, Alteen disks and other small lines. Then, in 1961, Allis Chalmers farm machinery sales were also added to the Kolesar Sales and Service business. All this work required help.







John Kolesar's garage after it was renovated. This building later became the Marshall-Wells store and burned in 1977.

To help, men such as John Klau, Bill Hartman, Neil Wageman, Lyle Sorenson Sr., Butch Sorenson, Phil Eyre, and Bob Leeder, at one time or another, for varying time periods labored with John. Of course, Audrey looked after the books, parts, etc., in addition to going to Edmonton or Wetaskiwin to pick up and deliver much needed parts when emergencies arose.

Soon after having arrived in Thorsby a fine gentleman, Reverend Gerry Hutchinson called at the Kolesar home and soon after arranged membership transfer to the Thorsby United Church. Audrey was a member of the Ladies Aid Group and also sang in the choir.

For recreation both Audrey and John enjoyed curling. Since summers were busy, few holidays or vacations were part of their lives. The occasional weekend at Jasper, Banff, and through Calgary and back to work Monday morning at 8:00 had to suffice.

The building where John toiled was in extreme disrepair due to age, so in 1963 contractors were hired to renovate the decrepit structure. Indeed, a pleasant change was made. The new look was complete with concrete floors, steam heat, floor drain, indoor washroom, outside stucco finish, and overhead doors. However, John was not to enjoy the comforts for long.

In September, 1964 he enrolled in the Instructional Education program at the University of Alberta and attended for 2 years. In September, 1966 he began teaching at the Vegreville Composite High School where for the following 3 years he tried to help students interested in the automobile. At this time, on a leave of absence, he returned to the University to complete the Bachelor's degree in Industrial Education. In May, 1970, he also received the permanent professional certificate. At the time of this writing, John is beginning his twelfth year of teaching in the same place.

Meanwhile, Audrey continued to operate the business as usual, with the help of Phil and Lyle. However, it was agreed that in August, 1968, there should be an auction sale. In September, Audrey joined John in Vegreville.

The house in Thorsby was bought by Mrs. K. Czolasz and Eldon and Audrey Herbert leased the business building to operate a Marshall Wells store, which they did for nearly 9 years. A fire in the store on the fateful night of August 13, 1977 put an end to the Marshall Wells store business. It also ended business for Audrey and John, for the building was ruined. In July and August of 1978, Audrey, John, and John's brother Paul, and Herman Snider removed all the debris. Mike hauled sand to fill in the excavation. Audrey and John fenced the lot and that was the end of the Kolesar Sales and Service business.

In retrospect, Audrey and John have mixed feelings of Thorsby. Certainly it was a land of opportunity but it had its limitations and its idiosyncrasies. For one thing, no one disputes that there was much mud on rainy days, and dust on dry days, especially summer Sunday traffic returning to Edmonton — for pavement was to come later. Backed up sewers were something to live through. At the other extreme end of the scale were the fine, genuine friendships established between Audrey and John, and those whose presence they so value and admire. There are those who still reside in Thorsby and those who live in the rural areas surrounding Thorsby. There are those who visited Audrey and John in July and August, 1978; those memories will always be treasured. And it can be truthfully said, "It was worth it."

PUBLIC POWER IN THORSBY

by Roy Kvarnberg

The first power plant to sell electricity in Thorsby was run by Steve Radowits. He was operating a chop mill (now called a feed mill) and bought a 110 Volt generator to hook onto in the evenings. This plant was purchased by Emil Fink and Alfred Sulz about 1936. John Hier replaced Emil Fink and Mr. Hier and Mr. Sulz operated the chop mill and power plant for about 2 years. This combination chop mill and light plant left



Thorsby's Main street, mid '30's looking North.

a lot to be desired. Many evenings turned quite dark before they finished grinding a load of grain and could switch the belt to the generator.

In 1938 the generator and distribution system was purchased by Roy Kvarnberg. He operated it for 2 years until Calgary Power extended their lines west of Leduc to supply power to Calmar and Thorsby in 1940.

Roy, with help from his father and family, built a new building just north of the Nazar Shoe Shop (now Begalke's house) to house the power plant. He installed a new Lister diesel engine and provided power from 6 A.M. to daylight and from sundown to midnight. On Mondays the power was on until noon to serve housewives' washing machine needs. On Tuesdays the power started at noon to give the ladies a chance to do their ironing.

The D.C. generator was traded in for an A.C. 115-230 Volt 18 K.V.A. generator. This generator was rebuilt by Mr. Guy Moron of Calgary. It was an old D.C. motor converted to an A.C. generator. There were 2 collector rings shrunk on to the armature. These were connected to the wiring of the armature. The 4 field coils were magnetized by a separate 32 volt generator. A reostat would adjust the amount of magnetism to control the voltage of the A.C. This had to be watched to make adjustments as the load changed. With the 4 field coils a constant speed of 1600 had to be maintained to provide the 60 cycles per second. The 115-230 volt system provided better service as the load could be split allowing better line voltage.

The monthly charges were a flat \$2.00 per month for domestic and an extra 25¢ per month was charged businesses for street lights on main street. Needless to say, not much money was made. During light load periods the 32 volt generator was hooked to a bank of lights for charging batteries. The radios in those days were powered by "B" batteries, "C" batteries, and a wet "A" battery. These "A" batteries were 2 volt and needed recharging about every 2 to 4 weeks. We charged 25¢ to recharge them. With the coming of Calgary Power, Roy packed up his equipment and moved to Vilna to set up a light plant there.

A few recollections: The cooling system for the diesel engine was two 500 gallon water tanks. These at times got quite hot. They also gave trouble. The water

we used corroded the tanks and after just a short time they sprang leaks. The engine had to be shut down and there was no power for 2 days as the tanks had to be sent to Edmonton for repairs.

Diesel fuel was supplied by Matt Samardzic Sr. The cost was 16¢ per gallon. A truck came to Thorsby from Montana loaded with diesel fuel and filled my barrels for 11¢. This turned out to be false economy as the fuel was poor quality and gummed up the rings in the engine - another power break to repair engines.

I was able to purchase some rebuilt meters from the city of Edmonton for \$5.00. The power users weren't happy to pay for metered electricity. The charges were 12¢ per KSHrs.

THE JOHN P. KUTA STORY

by Mary Kuta

John Kuta, the youngest of 4 children, was born on Nov. 14, 1912 in Miekisz Nowy, Poland, to Jan and Paranka Kuta. He had 1 brother Michal and 2 sisters, Katie and Sophie. John was a very young boy when his father was killed in Italy during the first World War.

His mother, being a widow, came to Canada and married Mr. John Sekora who lived in the Calmar district. Her daughter Katie came soon after and 2 years later Sophie joined them. In Sept. 1930, John left his brother and his homeland so that he too, could make Canada his home. He arrived at the Port of Danzig on Sept. 18th, and boarded the ship for London, England. Finally on Oct. 3rd, 15 days after his departure from his homeland, he arrived in Quebec, Canada, the land he had heard so many people talk about. From Quebec he travelled by train, and after a week, he finally reached Leduc, Alberta. On the train he had met only one man who could speak the Ukrainian language. The stationman at Leduc gave him the directions to Mr. John Kilik's house. Mr. Kilik then drove John to the John Sekora home. Seeing his mother again made him feel grateful and happy. From there he was driven to his sister Katie's home to live with her and her husband. She had previously married Egnot Harrish. John's other sister Sophie has also been married earlier to Harry Kuzio.

When winter came that year, John and his cousin, Fred Harrish, left to work at the Mudry Lumber

Camp. During the spring, summer and fall he worked as a hired-hand for farmers in the district. He also helped his 2 brothers-in-law on their farms. He later went to work for Mr. Mike Hayduk, who farmed in the Calmar area. John lived and worked there for quite a few years and to him the Hayduk home felt like his home.

In 1938, after saving enough money, John purchased a half-acre of land in the village of Thorsby from Mr. Jacob Madiuk for \$200.00. He bought lumber from Mr. Bill Laba and, with the help of his brothers-in-law, built a house on that lot.

In 1939 John bought a truck and started a business in Thorsby, hauling groceries and machinery for the Thorsby businessmen. He also hauled grain and livestock for farmers in the nearby districts.

At that time John's mother came to live with him and soon after, on Feb. 20, 1941 he married Mary Kuzio, the eldest daughter of John and Annie Kuzio who farmed in the Thorsby area. That same year, on Aug. 15th, his mother passed away.

During the years that followed John and Mary shared the joys of raising their 3 children - Betty born in 1943, Dennis in 1944, and Sylvia in 1946.

In the spring of 1949 John decided to quit his trucking business and on May 10th of the same year, he got a job as sectionman for the C.P.R. While with the company, he worked at various places besides Thorsby. Being away from home often he became quite accustomed to batching. On weekends he enjoyed taking his family to his railway bunk-car to spend some time with them. John worked hard for the C.P.R. and stayed with the company for 27 and a half years, receiving a pin for his long service.

In 1966 John and Mary celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary, sharing the happy occasion with their children, and many relatives and friends.

Their daughter Betty married Ted Gwozd in 1963 and they have 2 children, Karen and Todd, and live in Olds, Dennis lives at home in Thorsby, and farms the land that was owned by his grandfather John Kuzio. Sylvia married Ron Popik in 1973 and they live on a farm in the Thorsby district.

In 1976, he and his wife took a trip to Poland, to see his homeland which he left behind 46 years before,



Maintaining the C.P.R. tracks.



John & Mary Kuta with their 3 children Betty, Dennis & Sylvia, taken in 1973.

and to visit with his brother Michal and his family. For John, this was a wish-come-true.

John's health would not permit him to continue working so on Dec. 1, 1976 he retired from the C.P.R.

In June 1977 his nephew Leon, who lives in Poland, came to Canada for a visit, and in July of the same year John's brother Michal also came. Both Leon and Michal enjoyed visiting their families here and seeing the wonderful land which they still talk about. Their letters say they will never forget it.

And at last, on July 18, 1977, the 4 Kuta children of Jan and Paranka Kuta who were born and raised in the Old Country, were finally reunited again in Thorsby, Alberta.

The condition of John's health became worse and in March of 1978 he was hospitalized. On April 15, 1978 John Paul Kuta's life came to an end.

IRENE LAWRENCE AND FAMILY

by Irene Lawrence

On July 28, 1963 Irene Lawrence and her 2 youngest children, Marlene and Glen, arrived in Thorsby to join 2 other family members in the area. Elaine Rylander and Mervin Lawrence lived in the Genesee district where they were farming, so it was a toss-up for Irene whether she would make her new home in Thorsby or Warburg.

Irene had moved from Melfort, Sask., a town east of Saskatoon, where she and her husband Bill Lawrence had resided until his death. Prior to this, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lawrence and family homesteaded in the Nut Mountain district, 100 miles southeast of Melfort, until 1956.

Her other 2 sons, Fred and Lorne, arrived from Grand Rapids, Manitoba in 1965, where they were operating a service station and garage. Both boys then bought trucks and for several winters, hauled oil and water in the northern parts of Alberta, primarily in Rainbow Lake. Their summers were often spent working for the County, hauling gravel.

Fred and family remained in the community until 1975, when he purchased an acreage outside of Camrose. From this location, he continues his trucking business.

Lorne married the former Sharon Miller in May of 1968. They took up residence in Thorsby. Sharon was



Mrs. Irene Lawrence & Family, 1959. L. to R. Mervin (16), Irene (holding Glen - 6 wks.), Lorne (13), front Marlene (4), & Nellie (10).

employed with the Bank of Montreal which was then situated in a portion of Hoffman's Hardware. Lorne, Sharon and their sons Curtis and Corey, bought the former Peterson homestead in the Genesee district, and began farming in June of '73.

Elaine, who was married in Telfordville, later moved to Swan Hills where she was one of the first women in this undeveloped oil field. Elaine has 4 children, Darcy, Harley, Shelly, and Karen. The girls are attending school in Warburg and the boys are employed.

Mervin, in addition to his farming, spent many winters working on the oil rigs. This line of work often took him many miles from home, the farthest being his stay on Melville Island for 8 months. Mervin's children, Colleen and Marty began their education in Thorsby.

Marlene graduated from Thorsby High School in 1971. Upon completion of her high school, she entered the faculty of education and received her degree in April of 1975. Marlene married a local fellow, Dwayne Brod, on July 7, 1972. They resided in Edmonton. Later, the young couple returned to



Marlene Lawrence & members of the 'Barrel Busters' preparing for the Thorsby parade.

Thorsby where she is presently teaching. They live with their son Chad on an acreage which was formerly Dwayne's grandfather's.

Glen also took his schooling in Thorsby. In the evening, he delivered the Edmonton Journal to many homes for 4 years. Glen has followed his brother's footsteps in choosing trucking as his occupation.

The only member of the family not to have lived in Thorsby or the surrounding area, is Irene's daughter Nellie Souter who makes her home in Prince Albert, Sask.

The Thorsby Community has offered both work and leisure opportunities for the family.

THE LEFSRUDS

by Pat & Tony

Anthony and Patricia Lefsrud are natives of Viking, Alberta.

Patricia (Pat) is the only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Loughlin; her only brother James passed away at the early age of 4.

Pat's father (of Irish descent) came to Viking from Lucan, Ontario. Her mother who, was Scottish, hailed from Main a Dieu, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia.

Anthony's (Tony's) father, Johan Martin Gulliksen Lefsrud, emigrated from Sandfjord, Norway, in the 1890's to settle near Kalispel, Montana where he was later joined by his fiancee Karen Margareth Jakobsen Fewang (her maiden name).

After their marriage, they lived for awhile on their homestead in Montana.

When the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway completed its line between Saskatoon and Edmonton in 1908-09, the Lefsruds settled down to farming and raising a large family at Viking, Alberta.

Of their 12 children; one named Anthony, passed away in his infancy; another, Dr. Ivar Lefsrud, was killed in a railway accident near Edson; 3 of the others have also died.

Tony and Pat were married in 1942 at the time of his enlistment in the armed forces. Teaching school in the Viking area occupied Pat's time while Tony was away.

Upon Tony's discharge the couple resided in Saskatoon for a time, attending the University of Saskatchewan.

Their next move was to Round Hill, Alberta where Tony bought grain for a number of years for Alberta Wheat Pool.

It was in 1950 that Tony and Pat moved to Thorsby, where they bought a retail meat and grocery business, the Modern Food Market which they operated 23 years.

They recall that during their years in the store, commodity prices passed through many lows and highs. In 1950 for instance, bologna retailed for 33¢



Pat and Tony Lesfrud with Canadian Champion George III.

per pound; cooked ham, 98¢ prime-rib steaks, 57¢, T-bone steak, 85¢; hamburger (ground beef) 35¢; pork chops, 53¢; coffee, 59¢; cigaretts (20s), 33¢; Copenhagen, 15¢; chocolate bars, 5¢ and 10¢; bread, 3 loaves for 25¢; milk, 10¢ per quart; and so on.

Although the Lefsruds sold their store in 1974, they continue living in Thorsby from where Tony commutes to a real estate office in Edmonton; meanwhile Pat spends much of her time free-lance writing.

During their years in Thorsby, Tony and Pat have been and are active in community affairs. Tony served 7 years on the village council; 5 of those years as mayor. He has also been secretary of the Pioneer Branch #144, the Royal Canadian Legion, since 1951; for 8 years Tony was a member of the Leduc Foundation; 4 years president of the Leduc-Wetaskiwin Progressive Conservative Constituency Association. He also served as president of the Thorsby Lions Club; and president of the Thorsby and District Chamber of Commerce; and president of Lodge #577, V.O.A.

Pat Lefsrud has served on the executive of the C.W.L. and has been an active member of the Vasa Order of America and the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion.

Through the years, Pat has taken keen interest in training dogs - two becoming Canadian Champions.

During the years the Lefsruds have toured many countries on every continent in the world.

However, they maintain there is no place like home--Thorsby.



THE LIONS CLUB OF THORSBY

by Anthony Lefsrud

It was on November 8, 1954, that the International Association of Lions Clubs (Illinois) and (Canada) authorized the establishing of a Lions Club in Thorsby, Alberta — dedicated to certain prescribed purposes and aims.

Accordingly, under the sponsorship and the guidance of the Lions Club of Calmar — the host club — the Lions Club of Thorsby was launched with the late Lion, Roy Sparks at the helm as president, and Edgar Bowering, secretary (an office he held thirteen years). These two, together with the following named Lions were registered as Charter Members: Ed Alton, W.C. Alton, J.E. Adams, S.M. Acompora, A. Besler, Ted Bilar, E.A. Bowering, J. Chapin, A.A. Chranowski, A. Harrish, Louis Hovig, J. Hier, K.M. Hastie, Stan Hoffman, S. Keaschuk, C. Koperski, O. Lukianchuk, N.F. Low, Don MacRae, D.C. MacRae, A.R. MacKenzie, D. Milner, C.C. Mitchell, N. Nazar, W.L. Perley, W. Popik, J.R. Powlik, F. Radowits, J. Ruzicka, M. Samardzic Jr., R.C. Sparks, J. Woloshyn.

With "Liberty, Intelligence and Our Nation's Safety" for its motto; and dedication to the welfare of humanity as its avowed purpose for existing, the Thorsby Club has, since its inception — that night, one quarter of a century ago — taken an active part in various community affairs.

Not the least of the club's projects was the assistance it rendered the local Chamber of Commerce, financially as well as manually in the building of one of the finest and most up-to-date community centres in Central Alberta. Annually, the Lions have granted a bursary, that is, a sum of money to a deserving Thorsby High School student. Furthermore, the club played the major role in



Thorsby Lions Club Members of 1979.

establishing the Thorsby Centennial Park, in 1967; as well as providing a waiting room at the local skating rink. The club has also, through the years, sponsored or co-sponsored various youth organizations and athletic activities. In addition, it has, from time to time, assisted needy or unfortunate families or individuals. Lately the club acquired a bus for transporting senior citizens, athletic teams, and other groups to and from certain destinations.

Through the years, with the Club membership varying, at times, between twenty-five and forty, the following named Lions have served as club presidents (though not necessarily in the order here listed): Roy Sparks, John Woloshyn, Ed Alton, Arnold MacKenzie, Val Pailer, Adam Chranowski, Art Schmidek, Adolph Besler, Tony Lefsrud, Don MacRae, Don Oatway, Stan Zurek, Vern Muth, Art Kushnyriuk, John Rovinsky, Stan Hoffman, Ted Bilar, and the present incumbent, Sam Kobeluk — 1978-79.

KEN AND "FRANKIE" LONG

Submitted by Frankie Long

Ken and I (Frankie) moved to Thorsby in 1961 from Claresholm, Alta. where we farmed for a number of years.

Kenneth Mason Long is the son of Mrs. Mettie Warren of Claresholm and the late Robert Oscar Long. Ken was born June 5th, 1924 in Claresholm. He attended elementary and high school in the Claresholm District, and then went on to Mount Royal College in Calgary, where he received a certificate in accounting.

I Frankie was born Mary Frances Fisher January 2, 1924 to Mr. and Mrs. Tom B. Fisher of Columbia, Missouri. I attended elementary and high school in Columbia, Missouri and then went to St. Pauls' Nursing School in Dallas, Texas.



Thorsby Feed Service Mill when Ken Long was the manager, taken in 1962.

Ken and I were married December 18th, 1947 in Columbia, Missouri. We have 1 son and 1 daughter.

Terry Mason, our son, was born December 15, 1948 in Claresholm, Alta. He is married to Dale Pyrcz Long, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pyrcz of Thorsby. They have 1 daughter, Dana, age 2 years. Terry and Dale now live in New Sarepta, Alta. where Dale teaches and Terry works in Edmonton.

Margaret Colleen, our daughter, was born May 29th, 1952 in Claresholm. She is married to Mel Brandravali, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mel Bandravali of Vancouver, B.C., They have 2 children: Shauna (7 years), and Byron (2 years). They reside in Bon Accord, Alta. Terry and Colleen both attended elementary and high school in Thorsby. Terry went on to N.A.I.T. and received his license in Mechanics.

Ken bought the "Thorsby Feed Service" (chop mill) in 1961 and then we moved to Thorsby. The mill was owned previously by Mr. Albert Schmidt. Ken owned and operated the Mill from 1961 until 1976 at which time he sold it to Mr. Earl Kaiser and went into Radio.

He spent 10 months taking a radio course through C.H.Q.T. in Edmonton. He was hired in November, of 1977 at C.J.O.I. in Wetaskiwin where he worked as newsman for about 6 months. We lived in Thorsby until February 1978 at which time we moved to Wetaskiwin. In June, 1978 he was hired as News Correspondent, for the "Big Country Radio Network", which takes in C.J.D.V. Drumheller, C.H.O.A. Stettler, and C.K.B.R. Brooks, Alta. We moved to Hanna, Alta. in June, 1978 where we now reside. Ken covers the news right to the Saskatchewan border.

We enjoyed 16 years in Thorsby. Our first home was an apartment of Leo Zingle's above his garage. We lived there 8 years, then we moved into what used to be the Catholic Rectory right by the R.C. Church, where we lived another 8 years, until we moved to Wetaskiwin.

To all our friends in Thorsby, we say, "We miss you and will be back from time to time."

JACOB MADIUK FAMILY

by daughters Sophia and Phyllis Madiuk

Jacob Madiuk immigrated to Canada from his native Poland in 1907, together with his mother, his brother Max, several aunts, uncles and cousins. They settled in the Leduc area. A few years later he filed on a homestead one mile north of the present village of Thorsby. That farm later came to be known as the Smith Collinson place and Highway 39 now runs along the south east corner of it, and the road leading into Thorsby intersects it.

Annie Czernysz came to Leduc from Yaroslaw, Poland as a young girl and married Jacob Madiuk on November 11, 1913. They met on Sunday and were married the next Sunday. (No time for long courtships in those days!)

Sometime later they came out to his homestead where their nearest neighbors were the Patricks to the north, John Schureks to the south, Mediskeys, Powliks, Babiaks and Muchas to the east, to mention a few.

Those first years on the homestead were very hard. They built a log cabin and had a few cattle. Jacob had to work on the C.P.R. tracks out of Leduc to earn money for the purchase of a team of horses and a plow. His neighbor, Peter Patrick, owned a disc and they helped one another and shared their machinery. There were no fences or roads to speak of and often a walk for the cows took hours before they were found. Sometimes Mrs. Madiuk became lost and wandered around until she stumbled into a settler's yard. They had no well and carried water from the creek. In winter a dog sled was used to haul the water. Two children were born to them on this homestead, a daughter Frances and a son Victor.

Mrs. Madiuk used to tell the story of the time she went to Leduc with Mr. and Mrs. John Schurek, who lived on the farm that is now the John Pasula farm. The trip required 2 days with oxen and on their return trip, while crossing the Weed Creek, the oxen plunged into the water and refused to leave it. It was a very hot day

and there was no bridge. They had to wait for hours sitting in the wagon in the creek, waiting for the oxen to go on across the creek and up the bank. Mrs. Madiuk was holding their daughter Frances in her arms. The baby was only 6 weeks old and she had taken her to Leduc to be christened.

Several years later a disastrous ground fire wiped out their buildings, feed stacks and livestock, leaving only their cabin standing. They had to start over again and so sold the homestead to Mr. Smith Collinson and moved onto their C.P.R. quarter where now stands the western part of the village of Thorsby. This includes both the Elementary and High Schools, Mudry Lumber Co. Walt's Car Wash, the N.A.D.P. plant and residential section. In the ensuing years 8 more children were born to them, 5 boys and 3 girls. Tommy, Arthur, Alex, Kenneth, Joe, Sophia, Estelle and Phyllis.

During his early years of farming Jacob was instrumental in building the first Greek Catholic Church of St. John, 3 miles east of Thorsby where the cemetery for the church is located. The first mass was celebrated July 7, 1916 and the day before that the church was still without a floor, as the congregation had run out of money. Jacob took some lumber he had intended for a granary, and with the help of George Medisky, worked all night putting in the floor. They



Madiuk family. Back row: Alex, Ray Olson, Joe, Glen Wickstrom, Tom. Middle row: Sophie, Broderyk Olson, Cherryle Olson, Phyllis, Frances Olson, Ken. Front row: Estelle Wickstrom, Randy Shannon, Joyce Olson, Mom, Sonya Olson, Darienne, Shirley.

finished in time for mass. Jacob served on the church board for many years together with Mike Kuzio and Mike Radowits.

A post office had been located early in the 1900s in the log cabin of a Swedish settler named August Sahlstrom, on the banks of the Weed Creek a little way southwest of the Madiuk home. When Mr. Sahlstrom gave up the post office, Jacob took it over and continued to operate it until the railway came through and John Rolston arrived in the new hamlet of Thorsby to build a proper post office. It had always been known as the Thorsby Post Office.





Dad with turkeys.

Dad and Mom Madiuk.

The Madiuk home was used as a polling station for elections for many years.

The Madiuk family faced many crises on the farm. In 1925 their oldest son Victor died of diphtheria. In August 1935 their house burned down. In 1944 son Arthur was killed in a flying accident while with the R.C.A.F. His funeral was the only military funeral ever held in Thorsby and was attended by several thousand people. In 1968 their oldest daughter, Frances who had married Ray LeRoy Olson many years before, passed away in Edmonton.

When the first buildings were being erected in the new hamlet of Thorsby in 1929, Jacob dug basements with a team of Clydesdale horses and a scraper or slip, as the settlers then called it. He dug the basement for the first building to be put up, which was a restaurant owned by Mr. Forshner - also for John Rolston's building which housed the post office and his store.

He also served as a trustee on the Thorsby School Board when it was organized and remained on it for several years. Others on it were Peter Patrick and Ken Foy. The Madiuks sold milk to the hamlet for many years. The operation began with 2 quarts of milk in a syrup pail, delivered each night to Forshner's restaurant, then to glass sealers and finally graduated to the conventional milk bottle.

Ill health overcame Mr. Madiuk and he was forced to sell the farm which was the "home place", and also the school section which was kitty-corner from where the Greek Catholic Church of St. John now stands. The land was sold in the late 1940's, and is now owned

by Nick Poholka. Mr. Madiuk retired and passed away in 1951. Annie, his wife, continued to live in the village with her daughter Phyllis and was later joined by her other daughter Sophie. Annie never had any desire to revisit her old home in Poland and never saw any of her family again, except for a grand niece. Miss Krystyna Czernysz came to visit her in May 1971 and stayed to become a Canadian citizen.

Annie Madiuk was a pioneer woman who watched Thorsby grow from a tract of bushland, with part of it on her own farm. She died on September 26, 1972 at

the age of 79.

Of their surviving children, Tommy resides in Sicamous, B.C., Joe and Alex in Edmonton. Estelle married Glen Wickstrom, a local man, and they live in Drayton Valley. Sophie, Phyllis and Ken all live in Thorsby. Mr. and Mrs. Madiuk had 14 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Phyllis took up employment in the Thorsby Post Office after completing high school and has remained there ever since. Sophie is employed with the Thorsby Auction Market in the office.

THE ARNOLD MACKENZIE FAMILY

Arnold, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman MacKenzie, was born on Dec. 23, 1920, at Williamstown, Ontario. He attended school in the Glen Garry County. His mother passed away when he was 13 years old and his father was employed elsewhere so he spent several years with his grandfather. He then moved to Sterling, Alberta to live with his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Alex McRae, where he took some of his high school grades.

He joined the army in Calgary, in 1941 and served in the Signal Corp. in England, Holland, France, and Germany until 1946.

Upon his return he worked with the C.P.R. in Lethbridge.

Arnold began his career with Calgary Power Ltd. in 1948 working on a crew out of Calgary. Later he was named Crew Foreman and held this position until late 1949 when he left the company to work in British Columbia.

In 1951 Arnold returned to work for Calgary Power and was appointed Assistant Manager in Leduc, where he served for 2 years.

He was promoted to the position of District Manager in 1954 and moved to Thorsby.

In June of the same year he married Doreen Teske of Leduc. Doreen was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Teske. She was born at Esk, Sask., but took her schooling at Sunnyvale, a one-room country school about 4 miles east of Leduc.

On September 15, 1956, Heather Ann was born. She is an R.N. at the University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton. Murray Ross arrived December 23, 1962, and is still attending Thorsby High School.



During Arnold's long association with Calgary Power Ltd. and the town of Thorsby, he has seen many changes. When he came to Thorsby in 1954, the company had 2 employees stationed in a small office in the Hi-Way Motors Building. Today a staff of 6 work out of a modern service centre constructed in 1972.

Arnold has held several offices in the Royal Canadian Legion, Lions Club, Masonic Lodge and the United Church Board. He also belonged to the Thorsby Chamber of Commerce and Council of Churches.

Doreen was the senior assistant in the Leduc Post Office for 7 years prior to moving to Thorsby. She has been the part time assistant in Thorsby for several years and has also been active as a Sunday School teacher, church organist, and held several positions in the Thorsby United Church women's group. Doreen also helped with Explorers, Girl Guides and the Ladies' Curling Club. She is presently the secretary for the Thorsby Community Library, as well as being actively involved in the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Canadian Legion.

MAURICE AND LEOLA MASYK

Maurice Masyk, son of Joseph and Annie (Ozirenski) Masyk was born in Oct. 1932 and grew up at Clandonald. He came to Thorsby to work for the Beaver Lumber Company in the mid 1950's. In 1959 he was transferred to Barons, Alberta and elevated to manager of that branch.

In May of that year he and Leola Knull were married and made their first home in Barons.

Leola was the only daughter of Herman and Hilda Knull who farmed south of Thorsby in the Centre Lodge district. She was born in Sept. 1938.

Her mother Hilda, was the daughter of Jacob Meckle and his wife Mary (Wonnenberg) Meckle and was born in 1914. Herman was born in 1906 and was the son of Rudolph Knull and his wife Annie (Triechel) Knull.

In October of 1959 Maurice and Leola returned to Thorsby where he became manager of the Thorsby branch of the lumber firm. He continued as manager from that time on and in 1977 received his 25 year pin from the company. To received this award, he and Leola were guests of the Beaver Lumber Co. in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

During his years in Thorsby, Maurice has always been involved in village sports. He curls and has been on the executive of the association for 10 years as treasurer. He used to play baseball and is a volunteer fireman.

Leola worked in the local Bank of Montreal after finishing high school and has worked there off and on ever since. Presently she is a part time employee. She has been a member of the Community League in the village and currently is doing ceramics.

They have 3 children. Sheila born Nov. 1961, is in her final year of high school and works part time as bookkeeper in the Beaver Lumber office. Leann was born in Oct. 1963 and is in grade 10. She's interested in sports, and plays volleyball and basket ball on the T.H.S. team. Both girls are ardent curlers.



Sheila, Leanne, Dale Masyk with their parents Leola and Maurice Masyk.

Dale, the youngest child, was born is Sept. 1967 and is in grade 6. He played hockey in 1977 and is interested in many outdoor activities.

MY EXPERIENCES AS A RURAL MAIL COURIER

by Martha Knudsen

Early in the spring of 1966 Andy Blomquist asked my son if we would take over the mail route and his car and business.

He was hauling some eggs and cream into Thorsby from near Mulhurst and Pigeon Lake. From Thorsby a big truck delivered them to Edmonton and returned the empty crates and cans.

I didn't think I could handle his route and business, but when he approached us again in June, I accepted. I needed to have something to do, and I needed an income.

We talked to Mr. Blomquist on June 14, 1966 and the next morning I reported to the post office to begin work. I was totally ignorant of what I would have to do.

Mr. Blomquist had Neil Wageman helping him at the time. Mr. Blomquist helped sort mail and roll it up the first day, and went with us on the route. Neil Wageman helped me and went with me on the road for the next 3 days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. On Monday I was alone, on Tuesday the Route 1 mail carrier helped me sort and after that I was on my own.

Thorsby Rural Route #2 went south of Thorsby to Mulhurst P.O., them east to the Bonnie Glen gas plant and 7 miles east of Mulhurst serving rural mail boxes

and 2 big site boxes at the Bonnie Glen camps then north 5 miles to the south shore of Wizard Lake, west 7 miles to the Meridian, then north and east to Thorsby.

The trip was 44 miles when I started at a salary of

\$277.00 per month for a 6 day week.

I was expected to keep a vehicle in good repair and have a spare helper in case I couldn't go with the mail. There were some dirt roads at that time that got slippery after a rain and in the spring break up.

I went alone the first few years and sometimes it was 40 degrees below zero F. in the winter. I got into one very bad blizzard at Bonnie Glen and returned home without finishing the trip. Sometimes the roads were drifted but we got through without missing very

many parts of the route.

The route increased gradually with additional spurs, so that when I transferred the route to Mrs. Glenna Bateman Dec. 31, 1973 the Monday, Wednesday and Friday trip was 73 miles, and the Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday trip was 68 miles, with a small increase in wages each time the route increased.

I enjoyed the work, as I loved the outdoors and seeing the baby animals in the spring, and grass, trees and flowers coming to a new life.

I was an enumerator and D.R.O. for a poll in the Dniester area for five or six Dominion Elections throughout the years.

DAN C. AND RUBY MACRAE

Dan Clayton MacRae was born in Middle River, Cape Breton Island in June, 1906. In 1916, the MacRaes came west, settling first in the Lamont area, then in the Camrose area, where Dan completed his schooling. He joined the Alberta Wheat Pool in 1930, working in Daysland, where his family lived.

In 1903, James McCarroll, his wife Elizabeth, and their 3 children left Belfast, Ireland for Canada. In 1905, they moved to their homestead in Daysland. The fifth of their 8 children was Rebekah. In 1930, she

became the bride of Dan Clayton MacRae.

The first home for the MacRae's was Warspite, where Dan operated the Wheat Pool Elevator. Doreen and Donald were born in Smoky Lake, the nearest hospital.

In May, 1937 the MacRaes were transferred to Thorsby. That fall, Elaine was born in the Thorsby Hospital and in 1940, Jean was born in Edmonton, to

complete the family.

The early years in Thorsby, by then a well established spot, were busy ones with a young family and a busy elevator. Dan was an active sportsman and most every weekend was spent with the family at a ball game or tournament. Later, he coached some young teams and had a love for the game all his life. Winters meant a good deal of time at the curling rink, for he was an ardent curler. Bonspiels were a time of great



excitement for the children, with the unforgettable smells of home-baked pies which the women served in the booth at the rink. Not long after moving to Thorsby, he, now known only as "Mac", and she as Ruby, were staunch Thorsbyites. Hunting and fishing were high on the list of Mac's loves, and Thorsby provided many good friends with like interests. Ruby was active in the Ladies Aid and Community League and developed many good friendships which still exist today.

In 1947, Mac left the Wheat Pool and bought the Insurance and Real Estate Office from W. Armstrong. At that time, the office was situated next to the Union Cafe on Main Street. When the cafe moved to its present site, extensive renovations moved Thorsby Agencies to its present location and the spot between it and the Drug Store remained vacant for many years.

What a change it was for Mac, from shovelling grain to painstakingly learning to type with two fingers, a task at which he eventually became very proficient. How he loved his spot on Main Street, his customers the same people he had bought grain from, by now, his friends! Many, many hours were spent learning the insurance business, but it was a move he never regretted.

During these changes, Ruby remained a calm and loving wife and mother, never ruffled either by unexpected company for supper, or a houseful of children and their friends. She good-naturedly gathered hunting or fishing gear when Mac planned a trip, for he could never find anything at home, a trait he fortunately did not carry to his business. Her good



disposition was a blessing when Mac asked for his favorite hunting breeks (breeches) annually, even 15 years after their demise, a victim of moths and old age. He was always sure she could find anything, and seldom failed to do so. Mac knew he had chosen his mate very wisely indeed. Together, Mac and Ruby provided a loving and peaceful home for their children, resulting in a very closely knit family. They were active and staunch supporters of the United Church in Thorsby.

In 1957, when Mac's health began to fail, Don and his wife, Helen moved from Edmonton and Don joined his dad in the office. Following this, Mac and Ruby enjoyed more leisure time and began the enjoyable time of being grandparents. In 1961 they built and moved into their new home, which became filled to over-flowing with children and grandchildren on holidays and weekends. Mac continued to spend as much time as possible at the office, most of the work load looked after by Don and a secretary, but he thrived on visiting with his customers and going for coffee with the 'boys'.

In 1967, Mac and Ruby returned to Cape Breton Island for a visit where there were still some relatives. It had been a life long wish of Mac's to return, however, it reinforced him as a very contented Albertan. The ensuing years were happy ones, surrounded by beloved friends, children and grand-children. Mac died in the Royal Alex Hospital in Edmonton in Feb. 1972.

Ruby lives in their home in Thorsby, has been "Mrs. Avon" for many years, and unofficial Grandma MacRae to a host of children. Don and Helen and their 6 children live in Thorsby, as do Thor and Elaine Solberg and their 2 children. Doreeen and Moe Seaman and their 2 children live in Calgary and Jean and Jim Shepansky and their 3 boys live in Edmonton.

THE MARCINO FAMILY

as related by Jessie Marcino

Jessie came from Erikson, Manitoba with her children Stanley, Cecelia and Edmund in Nov., 1941. She was a young widow from a farm there who decided, after her husband's death, to leave farming and go west. Arriving in Thorsby she bought a house from Dr. M. Hankin for \$500. It had been built by Fred Zingle about 10 years before and had been the home of Thorsby's first cheesemaker, Pete Braglin, and his wife. The old Fred Zingle store stood next to her house and Bernie Zutz had a business in it.

That spring Jessie got a cow and later acquired a second one. These cows were pastured on the C.P.R. right-of-way and stabled at night in a little shed at the back of her property. She sold the extra milk to the cheese factory.

In order to support her family she worked cleaning houses for people for \$1 a day. She remembers doing a spring cleaning in the Bank of Montreal. She was paid



When Jessie Marcino and children arrived in Thorsby.

\$7 for the days work. Mr. Kinasewich, owner of the Thorsby Hotel, hired her to paint the rooms and tidy them up afterwards. She received 50¢ an hour for it and was grateful that he invited her children to come to the hotel for their dinner during that time.

Work wasn't always available and after living in town awhile she met more people and took in boarders. Steve Shymansky was the first. He offered her \$25 a month while he was apprenticing in one of the garages.

The house was not on a foundation and was very cold as it hadn't been finished. She remembers snow blowing through the cracks and onto the furniture during the winter time.

In Manitoba she had burned wood and had trouble getting used to coal in Thorsby. The coal was bought from Jack Arthur. While Ralph Otto was building the Hoffman house in the village, he asked her to board his carpenters at 35¢ a meal. She then had 3 to 5 men to cook for.

In 1944 Jessie remarried. The groom was Joseph Kalowicz, a carpenter. About a year after their marriage he undertook to enlarge and renovate her house. This required extensive work. She remembers how hard it was to live and care for their baby Carolyn during that time. Carolyn was born in Sept., 1945 and Jessie wondered how she could sleep with the noise of construction that was around her all day and into the night.

Jessie washed clothes for others to help with the income. She washed, starched and ironed men's shirts for 10¢ each. An electric Gibson washing machine and mangle was purchased to ease the washing chores.

The marriage failed after 4 years. She was again the sole support of her family of 4 children. She recalls that year as a very low point in her life, as she was very

depressed. On one occasion, she was sick and afraid she could no longer carry on, when a business man (Frank Hoffman) came with an offer. He was hiring men to build their new hardware store and asked if she would give the carpenters board and room. He offered to provide the extra beds required and to help with the food she needed to buy to begin with. That boosted her and established her in the board and room business that sustained her income.

A new fridge was provided. That made work much easier and was a thrill to the children when it was delivered. The town had installed running water which aided her work. It was no longer necessary to carry water and keep food cold in an old well in the yard.

For 3 years Jessie had served coffee and lunches at the curling rink when the winter season afforded that sport. A little sleigh was made for her to transport the food from her house over to the rink.

With the oil industry flourishing near Leduc, she had more calls for board and room. The children were very dependable and helped her a lot.

After Cecelia's marriage to Allan Holt in 1951 a new boarder, Sam Boychuk, arrived and was to remain

Sam was an employee of the N.A.D.P. and received his 25-year service pin from the company while in Thorsby. He retired from the factory later due to health reasons.

Jessie was invited to a women's meeting of her church shortly after her arrival in town. She was disappointed to find only 3 women: her hostess Mrs. Lindberg, and one other besides herself.

She recalls Mrs. Hale reading her teacup about that time and seeing a house with a chimney in it. This proved to become a true prophecy.

When she attended village meetings she was often the only woman there and was embarrassed when the chairman addressed the meeting with "Ladies and gentlemen".

Stanley spent a year in the R.C.A.F. and then went north with some friends. It was so attractive to him, he decided to seek work and has remained there since. He married in the late 1950s and has 3 daughters: Pamela, Janet and Michelle. His family later moved to the province of B.C. but Stanley still works in the Yukon

Edmund married Donna MacLean of Olds and they have 3 girls: Debbie, Terry and Shelly. He has made a career of the oil industry and has worked overseas in several countries as a drilling fluid engineer. His family has lived in England and Spain while he worked overseas.

Carolyn finished school in Thorsby and became a Nurses' Aide with her first job being in Brooks. There she met her future husband, Art Standish, who was an oil worker. They were married and made their first home in Vulcan. They now reside in Calgary.

Jessie improved her home over the years, adding a new siding of white aluminum and awnings for shade. The interior was all refinished and she has a very



Remodeling Jessie's house.

comfortable home now.

A period as agent for the Fuller Brush Co. occupied some of her time for a few years. She received a diamond pin for 5 years of service with them. After reaching retirement age she began working in the International Airport Cafeteria and drives her own car to work. Bingo is a hobby she enjoys whenever she has time to attend the games.

Jessie remembers her first air trip — a visit to Cecelia and her little family in 1952. They were living in Fort St. John, B.C. and she flew up and back.

With all of her other duties and, as Jessie relates it, in her spare time, she worked as a janitor for the local bank for 18 years. The starting wage was \$40 a month.

During the time she was agent for Fuller Brush, Jessie put her own float in the annual Thorsby Sports Day parade. Her appearance, dressed in some type of comic costume on those occasions, always provided laughter and merriment for the spectators. Later on she was content to be a part of the senior citizens' float in the annual parade. Jessie's sense of humour has always endeared her to those who came in contact with her.

She has many grandchildren and is looking forward in 1979 to the birth of her first 2 great-grandchildren.

Cecelia and Allan Holt have 6 children: Colleen born in May of 1952, Lorritta born Sept. 1953, Debbie born Aug. 1959, Ronnie born Feb. 1960, Carole born May 1961, and Allan in Feb. 1965.



Jessie Marcino (4th from 1.) with children L. to R. Stanley, Carolyn, Cecelia, & Edmund.

Two of their daughters have married. Colleen is now Mrs. Richard Frederick and Lorritta is Mrs. Floyd Kunas.

Carolyn and Art Standish have 4 children: Lorne, Leanne, Lynette and Laurie.

Christmas 1978 was spent in the Yukon with Stanley. Jessie enjoyed the flight up and back and the weeks she visited with him.

Her flying trips which began in 1952 have taken Jessie into many distant places. In 1964 she made her first of many to the north to see Stanley. In 1971 a 6-week trip to Poland gave an opportunity to meet her first husband's relatives. She spent Christmas in England with Edmund's family in 1973. In 1975 Christmas was celebrated in Spain with them again. Trips to Manitoba and Ontario to visit her relatives are frequent. Jessie enjoys life and gets around.

A.J. MARTIN

submitted by Lorna Martin

The Clapson and Martin Road Construction Co. came to the Thorsby area, when they were granted the contract to gravel the road from Leduc to Warburg corner. The gravel came from the North Saskatchewan river near the Holborn Ferry landing on the road to Stony Plain. At that time the A.J. Martin family was living in a log house in the Strawberry ravine, until the river flooded so fast that all the machinery was caught to almost wheel high in water. After taking the machinery out they started hauling it up to Thorsby. The Cat. however, with a big crusher jack-knifed, crushing the machinery into a crumpled pile. It was all snaked out of the ravine, and taken to Thorsby where it was repaired by A.J., Ray Anderson and 2 other helpers. During that time, A.J., wife, Lorna, daughter, Maxine (2), and son, Barry (4) had rented 3 rooms on the side of the Thorsby hall. When spring came they finished the gravelling. Mr. Gus Turnquist, during the winter months, had built a skid-shack for the Martin family to live in. The job was finished, but it took



The log house 1947.



Barry and Maxine Martin. United Church in the background.

longer than expected because it was a very high water spring. Even the town of Thorsby was flooded.

Mr. Clapson passed away in 1967. A.J. and Lorna Martin still live in Bittern Lake, Alberta where they are semi-retired. A.J. is still doing some welding and repairs for local farmers. Lorna has a dress shop in Camrose.

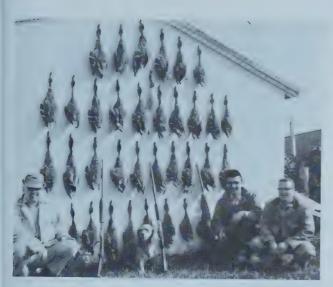
Maxine married Neil Henry and now lives in Thorsby. They have 2 sons, Greg and Tim. Neil is employed with R. Angus in Edmonton. Barry married Dorothy Walker and lives in Clairmont, near Grande Prairie. They have 2 children, Bradley and Heather. Barry has his own Heavy Duty business. Barry and Maxine both attended the United Church Sunday School. The Martins resided in Thorsby from 1947-48.

DONALD & HELEN MACRAE

By Don MacRae

Don, born in Smoky Lake, Alberta, in August, 1934, was the only Scot in the hospital there, also the second child and only son of Dan and Ruby MacRae, who at that time lived in Warspite where Dan was employed as an elevator agent for the Alberta Wheat Pool. In 1937, the family moved to Thorsby, where Dan was transferred by the Pool as their agent. Don had 1 older sister, Doreen, at that time, and within the following few years 2 other girls were born, Elaine and Jean, to complete the family.

Don received all his schooling at Thorsby and as a youth was very active in hockey, baseball and curling. During the hockey era of Thorsby, growing up with the likes of the Kinasewich family was an experience long to be remembered, as their determination and drive to have a hockey team was unequalled by any of the neighboring towns. There was quite a disappointment in town when they moved to Edmonton, as this put a strain on the remaining



Happy hunters, Ted Bilar, Gene Wakaruk, and Don MacRae.

youngsters who then had to carry on without these outstanding athletes and very good friends.

One of the problems of growing up in a small town is the fact that if one can participate at all in sports, one is included in the team, the detrimental factor being that often a youngster is competing against adults in a physical game. The situation was such in Don's case. As a young hockey player, he was a fairly good skater and as a member of an almost senior hockey team, going into the corner for the puck to compete against men much older and stronger became quite a challenge. The real method of survival during those years was when the going got tough and the corners got rough, there came good old "Buck" and Wilf Alton to demonstrate the fine art of keeping the opposition honest and, by necessity only of course, having to make the situation very clear of their intentions with the odd elbow, knee and the non-shooting end of their hockey stick. Due to members of the teams such as the above mentioned, along with many others, Don had to be carried from the ice once and carried home where he finally came to. Injuries were surprisingly limited to the minor, an almost normal nature of the game.

Baseball was much the same as far as youth and adults were concerned, although as a non-physical sport a youngster had a much better chance to display his ability. Don was one of the younger players to play with the ball club and as a center fielder will never forget the sound of a fairly large set of feet coming towards him as the right fielder, Arnie Strautman, who could cover a lot of green grass in one step, was in chase of a fly ball hit his way. If one didn't make way for big Arnie, there would be no tomorrow and think that wasn't a matter of survival?

Baseball education was well-tutored by the likes of Walter and Melvin Hughes, Alex (Snucy) Radowits, George Melnychuk, Barney (Give me some more liniment) Pasula, Wilf (Drive me to the Hospital. I just got hit in the can again) Alton, Arnie Strautman,



Don and Helen MacRae holidaying in California.

Walter Radowits, Mike, Nick and Ray Kinasewich, Norman (Spike) Ruff, Dave (save me a bat and I'll win'er with a home run) Ruff, Leo, Jim, Allan, and Joe Zingle.

No doubt there are many other players that have not been mentioned.

After graduating from high school, Don worked for his father in Thorsby Agencies for several years. He then went to work for an insurance company in Calgary. It was at that time that he married his high school sweetheart, Helen Pichonsky. While they were living in Calgary, a son, Gerry, was born to them. After several years in Calgary, Don was transferred by the insurance company to Edmonton, where they were to live for about a year and a half. It was at that time that Don's father, due to ill health, was unable to carry on his business alone, so Don returned to Thorsby to assist his father and has remained in the business to this day. While in Thorsby, 5 more children were born to Don and Helen; Cathy, Barbara, twins - Patricia and Pamela, and another son, Robert, to complete the family. At one point when the children were small, Helen had to look after 5 of them, all under 6 years of age. A tremendous mother that she was, she found time to remain active in her church, organizing



Back row: Jerry MacRae, Barbara, Kathie. Front row: Robert, Patricia and her twin sister Pamela MacRae.

retreats, and serving for several terms as president and secretary of the C.W.L. The children have grown up very close to one another and the family has enjoyed many a picnic together and annual vacations in their holiday trailer, taking advantage of the very fine weather in the mountains and the pleasure of Fairmont, and Radium Hot Springs, B.C.

After graduating from high school, Gerry worked for a year with McGregor Construction, then attended N.A.I.T. for 2 years, completing a degree in Business Administration, and is presently employed by I.B.M. in Edmonton. Cathy, after graduating, attended the University of Alberta for 3 years and received her Bachelor of Arts degree, and is now employed as a Real Estate Salesperson with Century 21, also in Edmonton. Barbara, Pamela, and Patricia are still in high school at present, and Robert is in junior high school completing his Grade 8.



Mr. Fred Mudry and his son Joe in front of their lumber business, 1979.



Fred Mudry and son Joe in their store in Thorsby.



Lue Mudry Lumber Mill on left Pete Mudry.



Mudry's Planer Mill at Thorsby. L. to R. Fred Radowits, man named Revenchuk, Mrs. Mudry and her husband Fred in background.

MUDRY LUMBER CO.

THE VERN MUTH STORY

Vern Muth was single when he came to Thorsby in May, 1969. He took over Fred King's business, having made a deal to buy his parts stock and rent his building. Vern started with David Brown tractor, New Holland, and Versatile franchises. He operated in Fred King's building until the spring of 1970 when Vern purchased Pete Borys' rabbit barn on very reasonable terms. He considers the obtaining of Pete's building one of the very important breaks that he got in business and in Thorsby.

The 3.05 acres of land on which the machinery is displayed was obtained from Arnold Krueger in 1974.

The building that he purchased from Pete Borys has been added to several times since 1970 and is now a total of 7,480 sq. feet. Another machinery set up shop was built in 1976. The Legion property was purchased and in 1976 the old Legion Hall was moved and relocated next to the set up shop.



Employees numbered one in May of 1969, and now number approximately 17-21 in 1978. Payroll is

approximately \$300,000.00 per year.

Vern grew up in the Kavanagh district and took his schooling in Leduc. He then moved to Calgary from 1959 to 1968. There he was employed at C.I.P. Mid-West Paper Company. He worked 2 years as a warehouseman, inventory clerk, and the remaining years he had a sales territory plus selling Fuller Brushes in his spare time.

In the fall of 1968, he moved to Edmonton where he was in charge of the branch of an inventory crew for

6 months before coming to Thorsby.

Vern and Marilyn Fetzner, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fetzner of Camrose, were married on May 8, 1971. Marilyn was a nurse's aide and worked at Ponoka General Hospital for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years and at Leduc Hospital for almost 10 years.

They now have 3 children; Steven, Cathy, and Darren. In Thorsby Vern and Marilyn's time is taken up with many activities. Vern has served on the Village Council, he's a volunteer fireman, a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club, has served on the Recreation Board, and is a member of the



Vern Muth, Steven, Cathy, Marilyn and Darren.

Lutheran Church Council. Marilyn has been involved with the Play School, Kindergarten, and the LCW.

In 1978, they built a new home on their acreage west of Thorsby and now make their home in the country.

NICK AND KATRINE NAZAR

as told by Nick Nazar

When Nick came from Poland in 1926, the trip across the Atlantic took about 7 days. He came to the home of an uncle in Calgary and found a job with a sawmill there.

He was sent to its logging camp in the mountains near Banff where trees were felled, trimmed and floated down the Bow River. The logs, in large booms, were directed down river into the Calgary mill. From 30 to 35 men worked with the boom. He remembers it was very dangerous work, and sometimes he nearly drowned. It was the hardest work he had ever done.

Wages were low and the men lived in camps. Bed, board and \$1.50 a day was their pay. He couldn't speak English but learned the language in the camp. The sawmill was a large operation that employed up to 90 men. A good friend of his, John Wachtko, who had come from Poland with him, worked in the mill with Nick.

When he wasn't working at the mill he worked as a harvest hand. In the old country he had worked on farms and also learned the trade of shoe repairing.

In those times if a man had no money or job he could eat at the soup kitchen. Cities supplied food at a central point for unemployed people to go and have a free meal. It usually was soup, thus the term "soup kitchen". Nick and his friends did not want to live off the soup kitchen all winter so decided to leave Calgary and look for something else.

In 1930 Alex Babiak, who was with Nick in Calgary, left the group and went up to Thorsby to see his 3 uncles. It was while he was in Thorsby that he sent word back for Nick and his other friends to come to Thorsby too. Alex had located a house where they could all stay through the winter. It belonged to Mike

Pasula and the house still stands on the former Pasula farm south of Thorsby.

There were 6 men, all friends, who stayed in the house that winter: Alex Babiak, Mike Kolitia, John Kachmar, Bill Dmitrishyn, John Wachtko and Nick.

The men formed a big happy family that winter and shared whatever they had. For food they shot wild game; they could buy a pig to butcher for \$3, a calf for \$5, and eggs were 3¢ a dozen.

There were some good musicians in the group and they made a few dollars playing for different occasions in the area. As they were a happy group of young men, they became involved with quite a few of the neighbors. Bill Stashko became their leader and Mrs. Frances Senetchko helped. They put on plays in the Ukrainian language and had lots of fun providing entertainment in halls with a charge of 25¢ admission. Some of the local people who took part in their plays and skits were the late Bill Cyrul, Steve Ference and others. The Mucha Hall, east of Thorsby, was always packed when they put on some entertainment. Sometimes the admission was only 15¢.

He recalls that winter as a happy one. They had lots to eat, lots of fun, and lots of moonshine. When the winter ended, the 6 friends came to a parting of their ways. Alex Babiak and Nick decided to stay in Thorsby and start a shoe repair shop. It was located in the back of Fred Zingle's store. The Beaver Lumber warehouse is on that site now.

Nick recalls that some of the business men at the time were Frank and Joe Dedio with a meat market; Mike Faraschuk who ran the pool hall; C.M. Hale; Joe Hoffman; and Matt Samardzic. The post office was run by J. Rolston who also had a store.

After a year, Alex left for Olds, Alberta, and Nick was in business by himself. He bought a lot across the street (it was only a dirt road then) and in 1935 built a building on it to house his shop and provide living quarters for himself. He expanded his business 2 years later and sold new shoes and boots. Customers came from a wide area. He repaired harnesses and made new harnesses for farmers. He bought the leather by the pound and there was a difference between harness leather and that used for shoe soles. He charged 50¢ to 75¢ for resoling shoes and a good pair of new shoes sold for \$5.

He bought a secondhand patching machine for \$25 and later on, a used harness sewing machine for \$200. He was always busy with orders and repairs.

In 1949 he met a lady who had recently arrived in Canada from his native village in Poland. He and Katrine were married that year and soon afterwards he built an extension onto his shop so they could have a larger kitchen. A few years later he added an extension onto the north side of his building to make the shop larger.

When John Woloshyn came to teach in Thorsby he boarded with them and later William Grasiuk boarded with them. He was with them for 4 years.



Mr. & Mrs. Nick Nazar and his brother (on left).

Nick and Katrine began working as school janitors in 1951 and remained in that position for 18 years. At that time there were 3 schools but the new high school and new elementary had not been built. When the high school was built they took over the care of it and Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Stein became the custodians of the older schools. Nick remembers that their wages were about \$150 a month for the two of them when they started.

He kept busy with his shop and his last sewing machine cost \$1700. It was called a stitcher's machine and he sewed shoe soles with it.

In 1976 he closed out the business and retired. Since then they have enjoyed an easier life. Katrine has returned to Poland twice to visit her old home and Nick went back in 1969.

They are members of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church and take an active part in the congregation. He has served as president of the mens club and Katrine is busy with the women. They do a lot of catering in Thorsby.

There are many visitors in the Nazar home. Some of them are from Poland. Nick and his wife keep in touch with their families there.

Both are active members of the Senior Citizens Club. They are busy in their retirement.

FRANK AND JEAN NEID FAMILY HISTORY

by Jean Neid

Frank and Jean, with their 3 sons, Robert then 15, Bill 12 and Frank Jr. 7 years of age arrived in Thorsby on the morning of June 6, 1936. It was raining, a beautiful rain! There was mud, an abundance of it, but after having lived for 16 years on the dry prairie, it looked good to them. Thorsby was where the family was going to put down roots again.

Frank had come to the United Grain Growers' elevator as their agent, and of course Jean and the boys were included in his plans. How wonderful the trees, green grass and creek looked to them. They loved it all and set out to make a home, as happy and pleasant as they could with limited means.

The village was small, but many good friends were made, and friendships which lasted throughout the

years were formed. There was hard work and some play, trips to the lake (Pigeon Lake), afternoons of berry picking and evenings spent with friends. Many evenings were spent out of doors with a smudge in a pail to keep the mosquitoes away; happy evenings of just conversation, laced with laughter, of everyday happenings and humorous events that took place.

The years passed pleasantly and before they realized it, their boys were grown up. Robert and Bill went into the great adventure of war, as they in their youth and innocence thought it to be. Everyone knows what those 5 long years meant, with always a shadow falling on their thoughts. However, time passed and the world returned to a measure of sanity. Both of their sons returned home, Robert in the autumn of 1945 and Bill in January 1946. During those years Frank Jr. continued his studies through high school in Thorsby and then at the University of Alberta.

Robert married Rose Mary Medisky in January 1946. They had been high school sweethearts. They now live in Calgary. Bill married Kay Mann of Jasper in 1948 and now live in Edmonton. Frank Jr. married Mary Lawrence of Seba in 1958 and they live in

Sherwood Park.

In 1944 Frank was transferred to Camrose as agent for the company. Three years were spent there and in Edberg. Friends were made, business was good, but it wasn't home and Frank developed diabetes, so they moved back to Thorsby in 1947 where they remained until his retirement in 1962. They then made their home in the Sherwood Park Senior Citizens' Lodge. Frank passed away on February 12, 1965.

He was born in New Mexico, U.S.A. and came to Alberta in 1910. Jean was born in Prince Edward Island, lived and received her education in Nova Scotia and came to Alberta in 1918. They met in June 1919 and were married on July 5, 1920 in Oyen,

Alberta.

NORTHWESTERN UTILITIES LIMITED

By Loretta Wonitoy

The Northwestern Utilities franchise to serve Thorsby was granted in 1959. Thorsby is served off the Pembina to Edmonton natural gas transmission line. The Northwestern Utilities publication, "The Courier", reported on the turn-on ceremony in this way:

Although a bitter wind was blowing, a large crowd turned out on the evening of September 30 (1959) to witness the turn-on ceremony at Thorsby.

Mayor A. Lefsrud was Master of Ceremonies. E.H. Wright, manager of distribution, spoke for the company and welcomed the people of Thorsby to Northwestern's gas distribution system. The mayor asked an old timer, Mrs. Rose Diercks a resident of Thorsby since 1902, to light the flare.

After the ceremony, the mayor held an 'at home' in the community hall for the businessmen of the village to meet members of Northwestern Utilities' staff who attended the ceremony.

The first, and only district agent in Thorsby was W.E. (Bill) Murphy.

information courtesy, Public Relations Dept. Northwestern Utilities



Mrs. Rose Diercks turning on the gas for Northwest Utilities in Thorsby.

THE HENRY W. OHRN FAMILY

by daughter Helen Brown

Dad was born in Pierre, South Dakota on January 19, 1894. He was the son of Erick and Matilda Ohrn. His aunt, Mrs. Pete Swanson, helped at the time of his birth. Over a period of years, 9 children were born, but only 3 — Herbert, Henry, and Hildur — lived.

The family lived on an Indian reservation for awhile before deciding to come to Canada along with the Swansons. They settled in the Calmar district on a homestead.

As a young boy, Dad did a lot of hunting. He played the violin for dances and family gatherings. He owned a Model T Ford of which he was very proud.

Dad corresponded with Mother, (Ellen Elvira Johnson), for almost a year before going to Evelet, Minn. to meet and marry her in 1919. She was born on October 19, 1900. Dad brought Mother back to Canada. They lived on the farm for a few years and then moved to Edmonton where I was born in 1921. My folks decided to go back to Hibbing, Minn. where Dad worked in a furniture store. My sister, Lois was born there in 1924. In 1927 they decided to move



L. to R. Hildur, Henry Ohrn, his wife, her sister, Ellis and her husband, taken in 1921.

back to Canada once again. Dad bought a brand new Hudson car and motored back.

We stayed at the farm while our house was being built. This house was later moved to Thorsby. The moving took all day. It was put on a lot behind the cheese factory.

Dad did painting and carpentry work. He worked at the cheese factory for awhile. It was there Dad built Lois and me our first playhouse. We spent many happy hours playing house.

Gerald was born in 1932. Dad went for Dr. Hankin and the doctor stayed until the wee hours of

the morning to deliver him.

Jobs were not too plentiful in the 1930s but Dad managed to get on with the Blindman Valley Stockyards as a hog buyer. He worked 2 days a week and got \$28.00 a month. He sold our car to Mr. and Mrs. Albin Benson and bought a small acreage east of town. The house was moved once again and added onto. The house still looks the same. We had a cow, a few chickens, and pigs. Mom had taken in a few boarders. Some of you may remember J.B. Olson who ran the elevator and Ken Brown who taught High School.

Darvin was born in 1934. Dr. Hankin came to the house once again.

After a year, Mom's health began to fail and she passed away in December of 1939.

In the fall of 1940, Dad had a sale and our place was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Green. We moved to



Trophy head from hunting trip of Henry Ohrn, Algot Pearson, Arvid Pearson & Anton Falk

Edmonton. Dad went to work doing janitorial services at the Administration Building, where he stayed until retiring in 1959. After that, he got a caretaker's job at the Edmonton Auto Court where he worked until he passed away in 1964. He was buried beside our mother in the Thorsby Cemetery.

Lois and I both got jobs and started out on our own. The boys were still quite young, so arrangements were made for them to stay at Uncle Herb's place. Gerald was there for 3 years and then moved to Swanson's. Darvin stayed for several years and then came to Barrhead to live with us while he finished his schooling.

I married George Brown from Calder, Saskatchewan in 1942. We have 5 children; Karyne, George Lyle, Pamela, Douglas and Gregory. We also have 9 grandchildren. We presently live in Red Deer.

Lois married Hux Lovely from Elscott, Alberta. They have 3 children; Sandra, Roderick, and Teresa. They live in Kamloops, B.C.

Gerald married Lucille Daruda from the Sunnybrook area and they have 3 children; Judith, Jordan, and Darren.

Darvin married Margaret Wolford from Red Deer. They have 2 sons; Bryan and David. They live in Leduc.

Helen Ohrn Brown died on June 18, 1978.



Henry Ohrn family. Back row L. to R. Darvin and Gerald. Front row, Lois, father Henry and Helen Ohrn.

MARVIN AND PHYLLIS OSTAPCHUK

by Phyllis (Rovinsky) Ostapchuk

Marvin and I were married on February 17, 1973. We are both from local families and have lived around Thorsby all our lives. We both attended Thorsby schools for all our education.

We are presently residing in the village of Thorsby, where Marvin is on his eleventh year with the N.A.D.P. and I am on my sixth year of employment with the local Bank of Montreal.

Our first child, Jason, was born August 16, 1978.



Back Row: John Rovinsky Sr., John Rovinsky Jr., Middle Row: Marie Rovinsky, Elizabeth Rovinsky, Sherry Rovinsky, Marvin Ostapchuk, Mary Chubocha. Front Row: Phyllis Ostapchuk, Jason Ostapchuk.

DON & BARBARA OATWAY

by the Oatways

Don was raised in the Lacombe area and worked on road construction for 4 years prior to 1965 at which time he became employed by the Alberta Wheat Pool, Ponoka as assistant agent. It was also at Ponoka that he met and married his wife Barbara, who was raised in the Grimshaw area but was employed at the Ponoka Treasury Branch at the time.

In 1966 he accepted the position of Elevator Manager at Kingman, where he and his family remained until Sept., 1968 when they were transferred to Thorsby. They resided in the Alberta Wheat Pool house until the spring of 1974 when, feeling they liked Thorsby enough to make it their permanent home, they constructed their own house in the Hoffman subdivision. Barbara was employed at the Bank of Montreal for 4½ years until May, 1978 when she took over the family insurance business.

The Oatways have 2 daughters — Nola 14 years old and Brenda 11 years old.

OLAF AND ELIZA ROSEBERG

as related by Mrs. Roseberg to Martha Knudsen and Betty Anderson

Olaf Roseberg was born in Norway in 1888. He immigrated to Seattle, Washington, then moved to Canada in 1903, settling in Wetaskiwin. Eliza Skoye was born in Timberland, Washington and came to Canada about 1910. Upon arriving in Wetaskiwin, she went to work for the Rosebergs as a companion for Olaf's mother.

Eliza and Olaf were married in 1917 at Yule's Meadow, now known as Clover Lawn. They farmed for awhile then moved to Millet where Olaf had a garage. Mr. Roseberg's talents as a carpenter were much in demand and, as a result, the family moved a great deal. After selling the garage, they went to Claresholm where Olaf helped to build the airport, moved to Edmonton where he helped build a church, then moved once again to Warburg where the United Church was being rebuilt.



Mrs. Eliza Roseberg on her 79th birthday.

Finally, in about 1953, the Rosebergs bought a house from Drewoths, and settled down in Thorsby. Olaf continued to do carpenter work until his health failed, and he passed away in 1968.

Mrs. Roseberg continued to make her home in Thorsby after her husband's death. While in Thorsby, she was a member of the Lutheran Church, and also a member of the Senior Citizens' Club. Mrs. Roseberg is quite a prolific quilt maker, and also keeps herself busy knitting. In 1976, she moved to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Home in Wetaskiwin.

Seven children were born to Olaf and Eliza. Three of the children died in infancy. The remaining children are Hilmer, Gladys, Albert, and Mabel.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH

by Patricia Lefsrud

While the "Twenties" were "Roaring" in Alberta's more sophisticated regions, the bears were still prowling in the woods and swamps some twenty-five to thirty miles west of Leduc.

If the area's sparse homesteaders of the Roman Catholic faith, wished to attend Mass they had to, as often as not, set out by horse or on foot no later than Saturday afternoon to be in church, in Leduc, by 11:00 a.m. Sunday.

But the prospect of floundering in winter's deep snow drifts or in summer's wet swamps, coupled with the likelihood of having to "put up" in Leduc's Livery stable over night-being, perhaps, unable to afford hotel rooms--discouraged even the most devout from attending church, at all.

On occasion, though, a considerate priest, aware of the homesteaders' plight, would come out from Leduc to say Mass to five or six families in some

homesteader's shack.

Be that as it may, with the completion of the last section of the Canadian Pacific Railway between Leduc and Thorsby, in 1930, new people--farmers, business men, even speculators--moved into this land of tall timber and peavine, necessitating a more concrete semblance of order in church matters.

Accordingly, the growing community gave birth to the parish of "Our Lady of Victory", with the Reverend Father Patrick McQuaid, of St. Michael's Parish, Leduc, saying Mass--in the summer months, in a little hall situated on the corner where Thorsby's present Bank of Montreal stands; while in the winter, with a decrease in attendance, Alec Lepine's little barber shop quite adequately accommodated the faithful.

At last, the Roman Catholic Church was taking root in Thorsby.



Our Lady of Victory Church, Thorsby. Built in 1931.

Records reveal that as early as February 11, 1931, Father McQuaid paid the C.P.R. Land Company, Calgary, \$157.50 for, roughly, one third of an acre of land for a church site on the corner of 1st Avenue and 1st Street West, in Thorsby; furthermore, during the summer of that same year the same priest and His Grace, Archbishop O'Leary, gave directions for the construction of a 24' x 48' church building.

Father McQuaid, by the way, was the first priest to speak from the pulpit in the Thorsby church.

Two very interesting items have been noted in the Parish records: The first babies to be baptised in the newly built church were: Robert Francis Demuynck on September 6th, 1931; and Frank Deneve on November 1st, the same year; while the first marriage to be solemnized was between Lawrence Edward Ruzicka and Margaret Elizabeth MacDonald.

Many memories of that first church crowd the minds of the old timers: Stanley (Post office Stanley) Tomaszewski recalls that the Jablonski sisters, "Rose and Gertrude, never failed to provide flowers for the

altar on Sunday"; and, that Mrs. Lepine, on the organ, accompanied the choir to the delight of the parishioners--some of whom were: the Ruzickas, MacDonalds, Jablonskis, Martins, Deneves, Demuyncks, Halwas, Murphys, Borgstedts, Worceks, Vanhumbecs, Yasunkies, Frankos, Tomaszewskis, etc.

Lower portions of the church's inside walls were wainscotted with v-joint, while the upper portions, as well as the ceiling, were covered with blue "building paper". At the back of the nave, behind the rough hand-made pews, stood a huge, pot-bellied heater with its stove pipe strung out under the ceiling, above the altar, to the apse.

One feature of the black stove pipe (though not mentioned in the liturgy) was the smoke billowing forth from between its sections on Sunday mornings. According to the controversy arising out of the smoke, Father MacLean (when he came) took the view that the men of the parish never cleaned the soot out of the pipe; while the men countered that the priest did not

adjust the damper. Oh, well!

To add to the store of recollections (growing "fonder as the years roll by"), Stanley Hoffman has contributed this dilly: A massive cross, about thirty feet tall, extended from the choir loft floor, through the ceiling, to protrude about twelve feet above the spire on the steeple, where it was often grasped by a strong wind, causing the entire church to "swing and sway" to the music pumped out of the organ in accompaniment to the choir.

September 23, 1934, saw Father Kennedy MacLean, from Beiseker, arrive in the area west of Leduc to take charge of the Roman Catholic parishes of Thorsby, Warburg, Breton, Lindale, St. Francis, Winfield, Carnwood, and Fern Creek; taking up residence, meanwhile, as a boarder, with the Val Feldmans, near Warburg.

Very little is gleaned from the records regarding the early life of Father MacLean, except that, as a young man, before becoming a priest, he worked as a carpenter--as might well befit a disciple of the "Carpenter from Nazareth".

Older parishioners remember this venerable priest as a "deeply sincere, big-hearted man"; while non-Catholics have been heard to remark, "Father MacLean deserves a spot on the official list of saints".

Many shade trees, planted by Father MacLean, forty years ago near the Roman Catholic Church in Thorsby, still stand, large and strong, in memory of him.

In 1935--fifty-two Sundays, in all--the average attendance at Mass was 44 individuals, and the total collection for the year was \$44.40; while during the same period there were no deaths, no marriages, but five baptisms.

In the evening of March 8, 1936, the fourteen painted scenes from the Passion of Christ (donated by Mrs. Elizabeth MacDonald) were solemnly arranged around the inside walls of Our Lady of Victory Church

by Father MacLean; after which he asked God's blessings--with Lawrence Ruzicka serving as altar boy. Some of the persons present on this occasion were Mrs. Elizabeth MacDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Ruzicka, Angus MacDougal, Mrs. Alec Lepine, Rose and Gertrude Jablonski, Violet Blair and others not mentioned by name.

To provide a resting place for the parishioners passing to "the beyond", Father MacLean paid \$30.43 for somewhat more than one half of an acre of land, to be known as "Saint Mary's Cemetery", one-half mile

east of Thorsby's main section, in 1937.



Confirmation August 28, 1938 at Thorsby. Front Row Left to Right: Van Humbeck, Van Humbeck, Coderre. Centre Row Left to Right: John Tomaszewski, Mike Zukowski, Frank Tomaszewski, Frank Kalucny, Mike Tomaszewski, Emily Tomaszewski, Helen Lindberg, Coderre. Back Row Left to Right: Bob Zukowski, Archbishop MacDonald, Stan Tomaszewski, Stan Kalucny.

Also, in the records, we note that on Sunday, August 28, 1938, at 10:30 a.m. The Most Reverend J.H. MacDonald, Archbishop of Edmonton, blessed the church of Our Lady of Victory; followed by the Parish Priest, Father MacLean, celebrating High Mass; which in turn, was followed by the administering of the Sacrament of Confirmation to: Ernest Vanhumbec, Ralph Vanhumbec, Walter Vanhumbec, Michael Zukowski, Robert Zukowski, Ronald Coderre, William Coderre, Gordon Coderre, Edmund Kluzny, Kluzny, Joseph Tomaszewski, Francis Tomaszewski, John Tomaszewski, Helen Lindberg, Emilia Tomaszewski and Mrs. Evelyn Ruzicka.

It is rather unfortunate that the date of the completion of the rectory, for the accommodation of the priest in Thorsby, was not recorded (but we do know that a second rectory was acquired in 1969).

It is recorded, that at a congregational meeting on Sunday March 2nd, 1947, presided over by Father MacLean's successor, Father Tom Conway, a board of trustees, comprising Thomas Jablonski, Frank Hoffman, Joe Ruzicka, Joe Zukowski, and John Klein was elected for the ensuing term of 1947-49. Also elected, was a building committee of two members: Stanley Hoffman and Bronislau (Bronek) Zolkiewski; as well as a financial committee of Frank Hoffman, George Hakes, Joe Ruzicka, and Thomas Jablonski.

Furthermore, that Sunday-meeting went on record as deciding that the church, being sixteen years old, and somewhat small, was due for replacement.

Accordingly, with the Archbishop's approval, a loan in the amount of five thousand dollars for the erection of a new church-with a seating capacity of about two hundred--was approved.

With most of the responsibility for the project being delegated to "Bronek", all the parishioners were one hundred percent behind the undertaking.

To salvage the lumber from the old church many women, even the girls, turned out to "pull nails", meanwhile, to augment the money provided by the loan, the women catered to wedding receptions, teas, auction sales, bake sales, etc.

Thus it came about that-with no church of his own--Father McAnally celebrated Mass in the Ukranian Catholic Church (standing where Walt's Car Wash now stands) and occasionally in John Powlik's New Thorsby Theatre.

However, by the fall of 1951, the church was ready for service before winter's onslaught.



Father McAnally blessing the cross for the new church.



Putting the steeple on the Roman Catholic Church, 1951.

Father McAnally, it is noted, was transferred, in 1952, to St. James parish, in Edmonton, where he worked full time with the Roman Catholic Youth Organization for about ten years before passing away at the age of thirty-eight--a loss keenly felt by all who knew him.

After Father McAnally, came a native Cape Bretoner, Father Donald Augustine MacLellan. A graduate of St. Francis Xavier University, Father MacLellan came west in 1926 to enter St. Joseph's Seminary, and later, to be ordained in the Edmonton Archdiocese, June 5th 1930.

In 1953, he arrived in Thorsby.

Here, he was instrumental in the formation of the Catholic Women's League (C.W.L.), with Mrs. Melton and Mrs. O'Brien, on June 25th 1959, being present to assist him.

The first executive comprised: Martha Knudsen, President; Mrs. Pete Hays, Mrs. Joe Ruzicka, and Mrs. Rose Halwa, Counselors; Mrs. Helen MacRae, Secretary-Treasurer. Father MacLellan, himself was the director.



March 7, 1952 Left to Right: Martha Kozar, Mrs. Flater, Ann Kozar, Stan Zurek, Father McAnally, Mr. and Mrs. Kozar.

In 1967, having served Thorsby and the immediately surrounding parishes fifteen years, Father MacLellan was appointed parish priest at St. Donatus Church in Galahad.

From there, in July, 1971, he retired to his old home town in Nova Scotia, but became active again upon assuming the duties of temporary Administrator of St. Mary's Parish, in Provost.

At the present time, Father MacLellan resides at Saint Mary's Villa, Edmonton, from where he travels to city hospitals and other institutions to say Mass, and comfort the ailing.

Father Michael Blanch was the next priest to take charge in Thorsby--1967.

It was at this time, in accordance with certain precepts established by Vatican II (a meeting of Cardinals, Archbishops, etc., convened by Pope John 23rd) that the Roman Catholic Church, the world over, found itself in the throes of undergoing significant changes in the centuries-old liturgy of the Mass.

From ancient times, it had been expected of the people that they should take little part in the Mass, except listen in silence to the Latin chant, the sermon, and the choir, and to pray in their hearts.

Now, all of a sudden, there was an almost complete turn-about; the congregation was invited to speak out, as it were, to sing from individual hymn books, and to accept various other changes.

In fact, changes were radical enough to include in the service the singing of portions of the Mass by a group of teenagers (folk singers) led by Loretta Anderson on her guitar.

Having successfully introduced his charge to many of the innovations moving into the liturgy. Father Blanch was transferred to Stettler, in 1970--to be replaced, in Thorsby, by Father Archibald MacKenzie.

Further changes were brought to the fore by the new priest during his three-year's sojourn here.

Father Joseph Killoran's stay in Thorsby was quite brief. He succeeded Father MacKenzie in 1973, but departed in 1974 to teach school in southern Alberta.

It was at that time, February, 1974 that Father

Larry Pederson appeared on the scene.

Born in Camrose, Alberta, Father Larry received his Elementary and Junior High School education in Round Hill, Alberta, and the Senior High in Camrose.

He is a Philosophy graduate of St. Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton. He also attended the Seminaire Universite and the University of Ottawa in Ottawa. He received his Baccalaureate in Theology, Licentiate in Theology, Masters Degree in Theology and began work on his Masters of Arts in Theology.

Father Pederson was ordained as a priest in the Archdiocese of Edmonton with his twin brother, Lyle, at St. Francis Xavier Church, Camrose, Alberta on

May 25, 1968.

Before being appointed pastor of our parishes he served in Edmonton as Associate Rector of St. Joseph's Cathedral for five years, as Associate pastor of St. Matthew's Parish, and as Professor of Systematic Theology at Newman Theological College. He was also Associate Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Edmonton; served on the Executive of the Senate of Priests for four years; and acted as Master of Ceremonies for the Archdiocese of Edmonton for seven years.

Through Father Pederson's guidance, the parishioners have become more involved in church affairs and in working for the betterment of mankind,

in one way or another.

Untiringly, he has spent much time with the children and the youth of the parish. He has encouraged everyone to take a keener interest in Catechetical Classes, the Knights of the Altar, Christopher courses, and in the Inter-Faith Council of Churches.

Father Pederson's enthusiasm has spread to the Catholic Ladies Group also. Through funds raised from their annual "Smorgasbord" they have provided the church with carpeting at a cost of \$2,000.00.

In 1977 the church was reshingled, a pulpit and a P.A. System were brought in, and new hymn books

were purchased.

This is indeed an era of changes in the liturgy in the Roman Catholic Church: The Gospel is now read in the middle of the assembly, in the main aisle; Candles are not placed on the altar until the celebration of the Eucharistic part of the Mass begins; The celebrant's position at the altar has been changed to the epistle side; The presding celebrant may deliver his sermon either standing or sitting.

Also, an Auxiliary Minister of the Holy Eucharist has been appointed in Our Lady of Victory Church,

namely: Stanley Hoffman, at present.

It may be added that the parishioners in Thorsby are grateful to the organists who have given generously of their time and talents through the years. Perhaps there have been organists here whose names

have not been recorded, but we still read the names: Mrs. Alec Lepine, Mrs. Alan MacDonald, Mrs. John Rolston, Mrs. Joe Ruzicka, Mrs. Cyril Pyrch, Mrs. Ben Kruesel, Mrs. Doreen Hostyn, Miss Barbara Hoffman, Miss Hedy Hoffman, and the present organist, Mrs. Shirley Pichonsky.

In drawing this account of the life of the Roman Catholic Church in Thorsby to a close, may we add a personal note: How would Christmas be Christmas if on Christmas Eve, we were not to see, by the flood lights, the beautiful Nativity scene set in the snow, among the evergreens, near the church entrance?

This is the story (though perhaps incomplete) of the first fifty years in the life of Thorsby's church of Our Lady of Victory (named after Mary, the Mother of Jesus--Mary, the Queen of Angels and the Queen of Victory over sin).

We are grateful to: Father Larry Pederson, Mrs. Selma Carron, Stanley Hoffman, Mrs. Jessie Marcino, Stanley Tomaszewski, Father McGilvary, of Leduc, and others for material or pictures used in the compilation of this history of the Church of Our Lady Of Victory.

STEVE AND SHIRLEY PICHONSKY

By Shirley Pichonsky

My father, Philip Eyre, was born in 1908 in Regina, Saskatchewan and came to the St. Francis district in 1929. He married Kate Spilak of Calmar in 1938. They resided in the St. Francis district until 1965, when they semi-retired and moved to Thorsby.

I was born on March 18, 1939 in the old Thorsby Hospital and was delivered by Dr. M. Hankin. I attended Rainier School grades 1 to 9, and then completed high school in Thorsby, graduating in 1956. After high school, I worked in Edmonton for the Ashdown Wholesale for 1½ years, and then came back to Thorsby and worked for 1 year for Joseph Ruzicka in the Rexall Drug Store.

Steve's father, George Pichonsky, came to Canada from Czechoslovakia in 1925, and his mother came from the Ukraine. They were married in Canada in

1930.



Steve was born on the family farm south west of Thorsby on February 6, 1933. He attended Dniester School for grades 1 to 9. and then went on to Thorsby High School. He left home at the age of 17. and went to work for the Rutherford Library for one year. He then worked for the New Devon Motors and also for Thorsby Motors, when it was owned by Mr. Ed. Hlus in 1954. In 1955, Steve moved on to the oil patch, and up until we married, worked for the Texaco Exploration Company.

We were married on July 5, 1958 in Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church in Thorsby by Father D.A. MacLellan. For the first 6 months of our marriage, we lived with Steve's parents. On December 8, 1958 we moved to our farm NW 21-48-1-W5) $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the home place where we still live today.

We farmed and Steve did carpenter work until January of 1976. At that time, we formed a company with Gus and Adele Bendoritis, and bought the former Thorsby Department Store. The following year, the Company bought the Avalon Jeweller building and opened a dry goods department. We still live on the farm and raise some cattle, but have the land rented out.

In our life, we have been blessed with 4 children. Philip, born January 22, 1960, is at university entered in the faculty of Physical Education. Yvonne, born February 6, 1961 is in Grade 12 at the Thorsby High School. Warren, born July 13, 1963 is also in high school in Grade 10. Candace, the youngest born April 3, 1969, is in Grade 4.



The Steve Pichonsky family, L. to R. Warren, Steve & wife Shirley, Philip, seated Candice & Yvonne.

During the past 20 years, both Steve and I have served on various community organizations. Our children have been very active in both sports and music. We, as a family, are proud to be a part of the Thorsby community, and hope that the future years will hold much prosperity for it, and its people.



Bindering on Klemky farm.



Donna Miller baling straw.



Wesley's first attempt at combining 1964.



Stacking hay on Terlesky farm.



Mrs. Metro Kobeluck and daughter Lorena Kobeluck Gardener of Edmonton hauling straw bales.



Grain dryer in operation with trucks loading and unloading the grain.



Filling tank in preparation for the spraying of grain fields on the John Terlesky farm.



Threshing with steam outfit during 1920's.



Combining on Otto K. Miller farm in 1977.



Ralph Hebner and two brothers Ed and Herman taking a load of wheat into town.



Building stacks in early 1900's.

HIGHWAY #39

composed by Walter Perley about 1950

Have you travelled west from No. 2? If so this won't be new to you For there's no highway, which for so long a time Has been so neglected as 39.

Now let's go back some thirty years, When many travelled with a pair of steers And teams of horses you would also find Ploughing the mud of 39.

From way out west in the setting sun Farmers their hard earned homes had won, From Breton, Lindale, Carnwood too On 39 were ploughing through.

The mud was deep, and streams to cross, The winding tracks which were so often lost. Was not quite the trail we have in mind When we speak to-day of 39.

Time moved ahead, and fences came And the winding trail became a lane And bridges crossed the streams in time. But there was lots of mud on 39.

Well then the Gas Buggies began to appear And many a trip was made in fear That in the ditch yourself you'd find When it happened to rain on 39.

Some gravel in due course was spread

And we really felt that we were getting ahead. We came and went with peace of mind When gravel was first on 39.

We stood in good with the powers that be And everyone could plainly see That Our Member elect was then in line And they took good care of 39.

The oil wells came with a rush and a roar And the traffic grew just more and more And the ruts grew deep, and the gravel line Grew pretty thin on 39.

Some work was done and plans were made And no one felt a bit afraid,

And our Government, those days were fine, They were just going to pave old 39.

Election came, alas and alack, We put our old member back. He had served us well, and we liked him fine But we soon had fears for 39.

For the boys up north with the money bags Just said "Our paving program lags, So you don't get pavement on 39.

Improvements we need, no one can deny That the revenue received is high And the traffic load at the present time Justifies the pavement.

We feel we are asking what is fair Just check the traffic that is there You'll find you've paved full many a time That carries less load than 39.

We like to think that we are free To vote for our man, whoever he be.

To vote for our man, whoever he be, And not have to follow just meekly in line To get a square deal on 39.

THE PERLEY STORY

by Bea Perley

Walter and Bea Perley were both immigrants to Canada from the United States; he from Minnesota in 1910, and I from Texas in 1912. Walter's family settled in the small community of Hamlin, Alberta, 90 miles east of Edmonton. My family, the Howards, settled near Vegreville, moving in 1916 to Hamlin where we both attended school to Grade 8. Walter went to the School of Agriculture in Vermilion. I received my high school education in Vegreville and extra subjects in Edmonton.



We were married in Hamlin on December 24, 1925 and went to live in Bashaw, where Walter had been a government grader in the creamery for a year. In the next 4 years we lived in Bashaw, Hay Lakes, Tofield, and Ponoka, and in May, 1929 we moved to Calmar where Walter was manager of the creamery - a branch of Woodland Dairy Ltd. of Edmonton.

Calmar was then a "wide place in the road" - no school, no church, no council, no organization of any kind. In the 18 years we lived there we saw and participated in much progress and development. The "wide place" became a hamlet, a village, and then a town. The Depression became Prosperity, the Second World War came and went, a school was built, also churches, a community hall, skating and curling rinks, sports grounds were established, and community spirit was high. The creamery grew, a new, modern plant was built in 1931, the volume of butter increased from 70,000 lbs. to 750,000 lbs., and this volume was maintained for several years. In July, 1946 Woodland Dairy sold out to Palm Dairies and we left Calmar Creamery.

Walter became an agent for Alberta Seed Growers and Elephant Brand Fertilizer for the whole district. We rented a house and remained in Calmar for that year.

Our old friends Happy and Minna Phillips wanted to move to town to keep their children Merle and Bobby in school, also Happy had sustained a very serious injury, and could not work on the farm any longer. They rented a large building from us, the former Calmar Power Plant, and moved in. Minna wanted to have a small coffee shop where curlers and farmers could come for a sandwich and cofee. They fixed up the building and opened in January, 1947. Two weeks later, at 10:30 one night, some twenty-two very cold, hungry "Oil" boys came into the shop wanting dinners! This was the first crew working on Imperial No. I which blew in on February 13, 1947 making history for Calmar and Alberta. It was a mild winter, the roads a quagmire of mud by day and icy by night. The crews went from Calmar to the site, 7 muddy, cold miles in wagons, pavement had not come to the district then.

Following frantic phone calls to the butcher Gordon Scott and the grocer Sam Pyrch, both families pitched in to help and eventually the multitude was fed. And that was only the beginning. By May we were feeding 125 men with equipment for possibly 10 or 15, an impossible situation!

In July we bought a house in Thorsby from Johnny and Doris Diercks and moved into it - Walter and Larry did. I was involved in the Coffee Shop until it was sold in September and did not get to Thorsby to stay until November. I shall always be grateful to Johnny and Doris for a warm, comfortable home - I loved it, and was so exhausted, I scarcely went out of the house that entire winter.

We had met many Thorsby people through church work, curling, and other affairs, so felt entirely at home from the very first. No community ever existed where the people were nicer, or more friendly in every way. We loved it then and always shall.

Wherever we have lived, we were involved in community affairs, and were soon into things in Thorsby. We all curled and joined the United Church,



The "Bridge Club" - Bea Perley's home about 1970. Clockwise: Lil Hier, Ruby MacRae, Marie Bilar, Leona Hankin, Mary Hoffman, Olga Keaschuk, Phyllis Bowering.

Walter was on the Board, and I was in the Ladies' Aid, he worked in Home and School, and all community projects. I was very nervous when entering the Mixed Bonspiel (I was not a good curler!) but, how lucky could I get? I was drawn to play on John Keaschuk's Rink, and he was a true gentleman, and a lovely, gentle skip, and I enjoyed it immensely for 2 winters! There were 2 Womens' Bridge Clubs in Thorsby at that time, a 3-Table and a 2-Table. I joined the 2-Table Club comprising Edythe Rolston, Leona Hankin, Jean Neid, Josephine Pyrch, Gladys Ponich, Muriel Hubbard, Evelyn Ruzicka, and me - Bea Perley. Bridge Nite was a highlight of the week, and many Grand Slams (and some Sets!) filled the winters with pleasurable entertainment.

Walter's first office and warehouse was in the annex to the post office, in the Rolston building, where sacks of seed and fertilizer, cream cans, and His Majesty's Royal Mail were often jumbled together. He had a warehouse on the railway as well, rented from Jack Arthur. He soon graduated into the small building vacated by the Bank of Montreal, and stored seed in a building across the street where Harry Hubbard had an electrical shop. This building burned down and very soon he built his own warehouse on the railway.

Our son George Lawrence (Larry) was born on January 4, 1931 in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton while we still lived in Calmar. In 1938 we took a foster-daughter into our home and lives - Elizabeth Marion Frederickson. She became a teacher and taught in several places including the Peace River country and Dawson City, Yukon. She attended McGill University for a year, then entered the Royal Columbian Hospital, New Westminster, B.C., for



Thorsby District High School Curling Champs 1949. L. to R. Bruce Arthur, Skip, Larry Perley, Frank Neid Jr., & Orland Simmons Jr.

nurses' training. She obtained her R.N. and went to work in Campbell River, B.C. where she met her "Fate". She married Neal John Vaderhook on September 8, 1956. They have 3 children, Kathryn Anne, Karen Elizabeth, and Brian Douglas, and live on a beautiful acreage near Langley, B.C.

George Lawrence (Larry) took his Grade XII in Thorsby in 1947-8, the first full Grade XII offered in Thorsby, with Robert W. Hood as Principal. He then worked with his dad and at various jobs around town until 1952-53 when he attended the School of Agriculture in Vermilion - his father's "Alma Mater". He had fallen victim to Cupid's arrows and on January 4. 1954 we acquired a daughter-in-law, in the person of Irene Daruda. They were married in the Thorsby United Church in a very beautiful ceremony with the Reverend Gerald Hutchinson officiating, and a sumptuous dinner for 100 guests catered to by the Aid. They lived in our home for two winters while we were working in Vancouver, B.C., then moved to Edmonton where Larry worked for C.I.L. In 1958 they moved to Swift River, Yukon, Mile 735 on the Alaska Highway where Larry operated a Repeater Station for Canadian National TeleCommunications. He advanced through taking several courses, to Telex operator then to computer operator and maintainer; meanwhile living in several places - Watson Lake, Yukon, Wonowon, B.C., back to Watson Lake, Yukon, then to Fort St. John, B.C., and to Prince George, B.C. where they now live.



Larry Perley with wife Irene & children Keith & Laura, Christmas 1960.

On November 17, 1956, a second reason for great joy and pride in our family.

I had never dreamed, nor wished, in wildest imagination, to see the Yukon but, with our children there we did, and we made countless trips North during the next several years. Laura Diane graduated from the University of Calgary in December 1977 in Archaeology, and is now "digging up" the Peace River Valley and loving every minute of it. Keith Lawrence finished high school and 2 years of college in Prince George, and is now working in a plywood factory

there. He is an avid tennis player, but has been paying more attention lately to a sweet little fiancee. Larry had earned a full pension with C.N.T. so they took it in a lump sum and spent 8 months in Europe in 1976. He now works for B.C. Telephones in Prince George, and Irene works in the Bank of Montreal there having gotten her start with them in Thorsby.

In 1957 my brother's wife died leaving 4 little girls. My brother worked for D.O.T., spending much of his time in the far North. The oldest daughter Joan died 2 months after her mother, of Hodgkin's Disease. The second girl Shirley attended the Lutheran Collge in Camrose for high school, living with my sister while there. She then attended the University of Alberta obtaining her degree in Social Welfare. She now works in Toronto and is married to Nestor Baquero, a graduate in Forestry from Bogota, Columbia, South America.

The 2 younger girls Linda, age 10, and Glenna, age 5, came to live with us for the next 3 or 4 years. They attended school in Thorsby and loved their teachers, Mrs. Olga Chranowski, Mrs. Jenny Vaughan, and Mrs. Betty Pasula. They were understanding and loving, and it was a tremendous help to us to have such wonderful teachers for the girls, and I shall always be grateful to them.

Linda is married to Dr. Leonard Zarry and they have a baby girl Xanthe Lee. They live in Edmonton where Leonard teaches school. Glenna has her degree in Education from the University of Victoria, B.C. and has been teaching in the Yukon for 3 years.

Walter continued in seed and fertilizer, changing from Alberta Seed Growers to McKenzies' Seeds in 1951. He was secretary-treasurer of the village from 1957 to 1966, following Roy Sparks and giving over to Edgar Bowering.

In the aftermath of the War great development and prosperity came to Thorsby and surrounding districts-new homes, new businesses, new buildings, new schools, and new churches appeared, with many new families moving in.

In 1949 an energetic young minister came to serve the United Church in Thorsby, the Reverend Gerald M. Hutchinson, with his wife Miriam and their 2 children Ken and Beth. Telfordville Pastoral charge, of which Thorsby was a part, was then a Mission Field with 8 or 9 widely scattered appointments. In the 18 years they served it became a self-supporting charge with new churches in Warburg and Telfordville, and additions and renovations in Breton and Thorsby. In August, 1951 an addition came also to the minister's family in the person of Robert Mackie. This was a great and momentous event, being the first baby born into the "Ruling Monarch's" family on the Telfordville Mission Field.

During summers we had student ministers, but the winter schedule was impossible to maintain without help. Lay people were recruited, and in 1957 the board requested Walter to become lay-assistant to the minister - which he did and continued to do for 11

years, taking 2 services each Sunday while the Rev. Hutchinson took 3.

In the early 1950's our office was torn down to make way for a new building which John Rolston built and it became our office, and later on, the church office. We had sold our home in 1958 and spent the summers in our cottage on Pigeon Lake and rented houses in town for the winters. The new office was a 2-story building and John had the upstairs finished for an apartment for us and we moved in. It was a very convenient arrangement for us.

In years past, the Ladies' Aid had started a library for the members and had accumulated 25, or more, good books. These, along with all church and Sunday school literature were moved into our new office forming the nucleus of the present beautiful and adequate Thorsby Community Library of which we are all so justly proud. Mrs. Frank Neid was the instigator of that first small library. Frank was the U.G.G. Agent in Thorsby from 1938 to 1962. During those years they were very active in all community work, and, both being musicians, they contributed immeasurably to the social life of Thorsby, at dances, social affairs, and in their home. Jean was the organist in the United Church for all those years, until they retired in 1962, and moved away.



Our foster daughter, Elizabeth and her three chilren, Kathy, Karen and Brian.

When retirement came to us, we had to make a most difficult decision - to leave Thorsby, or to see our families only once or twice a year - as their headquarters were now in Vancouver, B.C. Accordingly in 1973 we sold our lake property and moved to New Westminster, B.C. In December 1975 we celebrated our Golden Anniversary in the auditorium of Queen's Avenue United Church, New Westminster. Our entire family was present - Larry and Irene, Elizabeth and Neal, and

grandchildren Laura, Keith, Kathy, Karen, and Brian, as well as other family members and very old friends including 10 people whom we had known in our first home in Bashaw, Alberta.

The Master of Ceremonies was the Reverend Dr. Gerald Hutchinson who, along with Miriam and our families, had planned and directed it all.

We were extremely gratified - it was a lovely, friendly, informal gathering. We miss our Thorsby friends very much, and are happy when any of them can visit us. We are proud and happy to have shared in the tremendous development that took place in the 45 years we lived in Thorsby and district. We love it, and will always think of it as "Home".

ROYCE AND GLADYS PAUL FAMILY

As told by Gladys Paul

Royce was born to Albert and Mabel Paul of the Calmar district in February, 1931. The family farmed in the Calmar district until 1940, when they moved to the Centre Lodge community. There Royce, his sister Phyllis and two brothers Gary and Dale went to school.

Gladys was born to Purvis and Marion Leeder in April, 1935. They had farmed in the Strawberry district since 1923. Gladys and her five brothers and four sisters all went to the Strawberry School.

Gladys was baby sitter and housekeeper for Mrs. Hugh Campbell, who was teaching at Centre Lodge School in 1951. It was while there that she met Royce and they were married in Thorsby in June of 1952.

In 1952 and '53 they worked in Alsask, Saskatchewan. In 1954, Royce drove an oil truck at Drayton Valley. The next year they moved to Edmonton where they worked.

Their first daughter Valerie Marion was born in March, 1955. Darlene Mabel was born in Edmonton in March, 1956. The third daughter Sharon was born in May 1957. Their first son Calvin Royce was born in September 1959 and now works in Edmonton.

Royce and Gladys moved back to a farm near Centre Lodge and it was in 1960 that the second son Neil Albert was born. He is finishing his grade 12 in Thorsby High School in 1978. The last son Mark Purvis was born in 1962 and he is still in school.

The summer of that year they left the farm and moved into Thorsby and Royce began working for the Department of Highways. He is still employed with it. Gladys has been busy with cafe work for the past ten years.

Gladys ran the cafe at the Weed Creek Service Station for several years, also the Sunnybrook Hotel Cafe. Later she worked in the Thorsby Hotel Cafe. In 1974 she bought her own business and operated it under the name of "Gladys' Cafe" in Thorsby. It was located where the new Macleods store now stands.

In 1976, the premises were to be torn down and the cafe closed down for lack of another location. She then operated the store at Mission Beach on Pigeon Lake. In 1977, Gladys bought the H & T Breadbasket in Thorsby and is operating it as a cafe, bakery and games' room,

The daughters are all married. Valerie married Gary Dennis of Thorsby in 1971. They now live in Blackfalds, Alberta and have one little girl named Brandy who was born in December of 1976.

Darlene is married to Noel Gaudet of Prince Edward Island. They were married in 1972 and have two children, Shain born in 1973 and Shannon in 1975. They make their home in Edmonton.

Sharon and Gordon Poirier, also from Prince Edward Island, were married in 1975. They have two children also, Trevor and Machell. They also live in Edmonton.

PAT AND WALTER PICHONSKY

by Walter

In 1964, I married Patricia Eyre, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Eyre, formerly of St. Francis. For the first year we lived in a suite in the home of Fred King, now the Roman Catholic Rectory. Pat was employed by the Bank of Montreal and I was a clerk in the local Liquor Store. I transferred with the Liquor Board to Mundare, Alta. in Dec. 1966. I managed the store while Pat worked in the office of the Mundare Hospital and later for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

In April, 1971, we decided to try something different and we went into business on our own. We moved back to Thorsby, bought the property that formerly was the site of the Greek Catholic Church and built what is today Walt's Care Wash Ltd. In 1972, we added a laundromat and office space to the car wash.



Mr. & Mrs. Walter Pichonsky, with children Brian & Carla.

Pat went back to work for the Bank of Montreal for a year until our first child Bryan was born in April, 1972. In July of 1974, our daughter Carla was born, completing our family.



Walt's Car Wash & Laundromat, 1978 in Thorsby, owned and operated by Walter Pichonsky.

The people of Thorsby and district have helped make our business a success. We are grateful and hope to be making our home and serving the public for many more years in Thorsby.

MY EXPERIENCES AS A WAR BRIDE

by Vera Popik

The second world war was just over when I married Steve Popik, a Canadian serviceman, in 1945. We were married in Aldershot, England. When I came to Canada I left my parents, a brother and a sister. They were not happy to see me go so far away to a strange country. They said marriage wasn't easy, especially in a country so far away from family and friends.

Steve and I could not come together because as he was in the service, he had to first come home and then go to Winnipeg on a specific date to be discharged. Steve left England for Canada in February 1946 and I left my home in Odiham, England on March 22, 1946 by train for London. There I stayed overnight at a hostel, then left the next day for Southhampton by train to the port of embarkation. Family members were only allowed to see you off as far as London.

We went aboard the Letitia, and I'll never forget those 9 days on the ocean. I was glad to see land. The Letitia was a pre-war liner that had been converted to a troop ship. The brides slept 6 or more to a cabin with their babies in cradles between the bunks. 600 women and infants were aboard the 8,200 ton ship that was designed to carry a third of that. When a member of the crew told some of the girls there were Indians hiding in the trees along the shores of the approaches of Halifax Harbour, they believed him and were afraid.

We arrived in Halifax April 3 and left by train to go across Canada. We stopped at all the destinations of the war brides.

I could not believe the country was so big, and was shocked at the wasted space. The mosquitoes were really bad and I was allergic to them.

Farm life in Alberta was rugged and I was certainly not used to it. We stayed on the farm 2 years then moved into Thorsby. Steve is a mechanic and worked in the Popik family garage in Thorsby. He also drove a school bus for 10 years. His bus route was to Calmar school. Steve now has a gravel trucking business.

After we had lived in Thorsby for a few years we bought the former Lawrence Ruzicka house and lived there for 23 years. After we purchased a new home the old house was sold to Murray Irvine and he moved it to Warburg and we had our new home placed on the same location.

Our 4 children are all married and we have 6 grandchildren. Sandra married Rick McCardia and is living in Edmonton. Arlene married Ed Chrunik and they have 2 children and live in Edmonton. Ken married Sharon Buchan and they have 2 children. Jim married Virginia Ollenberg and they have 2 children and are living in Edmonton, too.

Steve and I have been back to visit my family in England several times since our children grew up.

JOHN ROBERT POWLIK

John Robert Powlik was born on May 28, 1911 on his parents' farm a few miles east of Thorsby and lived his entire life in the area. He attended Progress School and there he completed his grade 8 education. He liked school and had wished to continue beyond grade 8, but it was not to be. During his school days, he also managed to learn to play the violin.



Back row: Geo. & Jean Radowits, Anne & John Powlik. Front: Lorraine, Roger, Gerald Powlik and their parents Anne and John Powlik, 1946.

In the early part of 1928, when he was only 16 years old, he left home with \$5.00 in his pocket and went to live with his sister Mary and her husband Harry Borys. He stayed 9 months, helping Harry on the farm, and then decided it was time to move on.

Next he moved to Edmonton and stayed with his sister Kate, while he attended mechanic's school. Upon completing his training he worked for a time with Dominion Motors in Edmonton.

In 1930 John returned to the small hamlet of Thorsby and started up a shop in a room in the back of Fred Zingle's store where the Beaver Lumber warehouse now stands. By 1933 John had purchased the garage on main street from Osterberg and Nystrom and went into business on his own. During the early '30's most of the cars purchased in the district were used ones John had brought in from Edmonton.

About this time, John was able to put together a pick-up orchestra which featured among others, John on the violin, Mike Powlik on the drums, and Dan Babiak on the second fiddle. Many of the dances they played for were held at the Mucha dance hall. John associated a lot with Bill Cyrul, and Steve and George Radowits in the early thirties.

In 1934 John began to court Anne Radowits. Two years later on Wednesday, Nov. 25, 1936 John and Anne were married at St. Josephat's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Edmonton. Father M. Senichuk officiated. It was a beautiful day and the bride looked charming in an exquisite gown of white lace and carried a bouquet of carnations.

The bridesmaids attending the bride were Miss Sophie Powlik, Miss Mary Senio, Miss Sophie Dublanko, Miss Francis Powlik, Miss Rosie Hanas, and Miss Helen Senio. All were dressed in pale yellow silk, fashioned on long graceful lines. The best men were William Cyrul, Steve Podgorney, Fred Radowits, Steve Adamic, Mike Powlik and Tom Dublanko. The flower girl was Miss Sophie Hanas, and the ring bearer was Master Archie Radowits of Conjuring Creek. The bride and groom automobiled to Edmonton accompanied by Messers George Radowits, Alex Chornik, and Mike Faraschuk and after the ceremony, a wedding banquet was served the following day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Radowits with a large number of guests being present. Dniester Hall was the scene of the dance with the Tomaszewski Brothers Orchestra in attendance. The following day was a big one at the home of Mrs. John Powlik, the mother of the groom. Over 400 guests were at the banquet table which was centred by a three-tier wedding cake.

In 1940 John was beginning to phase out his garage activities and became interested in a travelling show business. He started in the entertainment business by travelling to small neighboring towns with his films and projectors for 4 years and showed movies in their halls. He would literally sleep in his car some nights as heavy rains made the dirt roads impassible. In 1945, tired of battling the muddy roads and storms, he decided to settle in Thorsby. He sold his garage to Mr.



LaRose Hall in Thorsby where J.R. Powlik showed films.

Hubert Johnson of Glen Park, taking a farm near Fryk's in trade as part of the transaction. Very soon after this he bought the LaRose hall in back of the present Samardzic Implement Shop and showed weekly movies in it. At first his charges were 15¢ for children, 25¢ for students, and 40¢ for adults. He changed films 3 times a week. Comedies and westerns were the most popular.

but in the following years provided well for his daughter and 2 sons. On June 8, 1963 with no family at home, John married Mrs. Marie Woitas.

John R. Powlik contributed to many community activities during his lifetime. He served on the village council for several years and one term was the Mayor of Thorsby. He also belonged to the Thorsby Chamber of Commerce, the Thorsby Lions Club and the Thorsby Curling Club. He always volunteered his services for the annual Thorsby Sports Day in May. He played a leadership role in the building of the new Ukrainian Catholic Church just south of town. He purchased the altar for the church in the memory of his first wife, Anne.

John took a very active part in the construction of the Thorsby Community Centre. He and Stanley Hoffman spent many hours after supper for months completing the roof of the centre before winter set in. It was in this church and in this centre that his 2 sons would celebrate their marriages.

In January, 1969 John had major surgery. At first his recovery was slow but gradual. But by 1972 he was forced to sell the theatre to Mr. C. Sabin of Edmonton and he retired, continuing to reside in the village.

On January 18, 1973 John Powlik died in Breton hospital at the age of 61 years. He had been in failing health for the last year.





First Search for Talent show in Thorsby Theatre in 1951. On April 20 with Bronek's house in left foreground.

John R. Powlik's garage about 1937 on main street in Thorsby. Gas sold for 32¢ a gallon.

John saw a future in show business. In 1949 he started construction on the New Thorsby Theatre with 318 seats, and opened for business on June 12, 1950 to a packed house. John was in debt \$40,000. on opening day. In 1954 he bought the electrical appliance business from Norman Lowe (his projectionist) that was located in one of the side offices in the theatre building and also went into a gas agency business.

On Jan. 21, 1955 his wife Anne had a stroke in hospital and passed away. John was deeply saddened

The funeral was held in St. John's Greek Catholic Church in Thorsby on January 23, 1973 where he had been a lifetime member. The capacity crowd of over 500 friends who came to pay their respects to this very modest, self-made man with whom they had transacted business with over the years, was a fitting tribute to his memory. Interment was in the family plot in the church cemetery and the funeral cortege passed by his old home site on the way to the cemetery.

John and Anne Powlik had 3 children. Lorraine (Mrs. Dennis Stapleton) resides in Carleton Place, Ontario with her husband and daughters Vanessa and Roxanne. Roger John Powlik, a pharmacist, resides in Calgary with his son James John. Gerald Dan Powlik, a high school vice-principal, resides in Langley, B.C. with his wife Lynne, and daughters Laura Anne, Karen Leslie, and Sandra Elizabeth.

MY EXPERIENCES AS AN ENGLISH IMMIGRANT

Written By S. David Ross

I was born April 9, 1913, in London, England and went to boarding school when I was 3 years old. I was 36 inches tall and weighed 36 lbs. and was the smallest boy that ever went to that school. It was at Hayes, Middlesex and was 11 miles from the centre of London. My mother was sick and that was why I was sent to the school; she died when I was 6 and I remained at the school until I was past 15 years of age.

I remember the bombs dropping in front of our school during the first World War. During the nights we all used to huddle together in the main corridors when the air raids were on. One of the maids or the head master's wife would hold me on their lap. When I went back to England with the Canadian Forces in 1944, I went to visit my old school and the head master was very surprised when I told him my recollections of those war years when I was so young.

It was a boys' industrial school and we were taught all kinds of trades. The Canadian Pacific Railway showed films across England and at the schools advertising Canada and scenes of farming there. I made up my mind to come to Canada and at the age of

15½ I immigrated.

There were about 40 young English boys and girls on the S.S. Regina we sailed on. We left from Greenock, Scotland. The trip took 8 days and we landed at Quebec City. Those were some of the best days of my life, we were such a happy group of young people and had so much fun we didn't get sea sick. The Salvation Army took responsibility for our safe arrival and found us jobs in Canada.

It was the middle of Sept. when we arrived and I remember our first lunch in Canada. We sat on swivel stools at a lunch counter and saw people eating corn on the cob. I had never seen it before like that and we laughed. In England we only knew of shelled corn and it was fed to chickens.

It was quite an experience travelling in colonist cars. When I arrived in Winnipeg, Man. the Salvation Army representative met me and gave me a choice of jobs. I picked a dairy farm outside of Assiniboia, Sask. and arrived there about Sept. 23, 1928. That was the last year of the good crops and it was a bumper one. Since I was a green hand, I was paid \$10.00 per month and the harvest hands across the road were getting

\$10.00 a day. I started to milk cows wearing a pair of cream colored kid gloves; the boss didn't think much of that idea!

I learned to stook most kinds of grain on that farm, wheat, flax, rye, oats and barley. When I was through with that crop I could surely run as I would set 2 stooks up and run like H to get some more up before they fell down. Before I left that farm I was milking 24 head of cows myself. We started at 4 a.m. in the morning and 4 p.m. at night. The milk was bottled at the farm and the old man hauled it into Assiniboia and sold it house to house.

I left that farm for McCord, Sask. in the early spring of 1929 and worked there more than 3 years. That was when the first of the Depression years started. The stock market crashed, businesses failed, people lost their jobs, the crops failed. Soup kitchens were started up in towns and cities.

I well remember the terrible dust storms of sand piling up along the fences. I would be in the field driving 10 head of horses hitched up to an 18 ft. disc, dust clouds would start rolling up, blue black clouds like a solid wall, a terrible wind would come up and I would turn the horses toward home and head there as fast as they could go. Money was very scarce and people started moving out of the district. The neighbors would help each other to load their effects on the train, then they would offer prayers and sing a hymn together before the train pulled out. Those were sad occasions, there was no money but lots of love and good will towards one another. We used to get together in the evenings and have skating parties on the creek, then come into the house, gather around the organ and sing, and have hot chocolate, cake or cookies. They didn't have much in worldly goods but there was lots of friendliness.

When I left McCord the boss had no money, so paid me off with a team of horses and the most money I could get for them was \$40.00. That was my return for 3 years of work. I was at McCord when the first train came through in 1929.

I went to northern Saskatchewan and worked on the railroad helping to build a new line through to St. Walburg, Meadow Lake and towards Bonnyville. Wages were 25¢ an hour with 70¢ a day deducted for board. We often worked in 35° below zero weather.

After the stint on the railroad I went to Montreal and worked at interior decorating for 25¢ an hour and was happy to get the job. I had learned how to do this kind of work at school in England. When I left Montreal I came back west and all of my travelling was free, riding the rods on top of boxcars. The coldest ride was in an empty cattle car through the mountains in winter and the hottest one was riding behind the engine on the tender through the tunnels. I did not think I would make it through the tunnels alive.

I finally hit Vermilion, Alberta, in 1934 and worked for the Ray Hutchison family. This good family left a lasting impression on me that I will always cherish. They were good God fearing people and

treated me like one of their family. I also worked for the Johnny Mix family, his farm was later the location of the Vermilion Airport. He started up the Mix Trucking line while I was there, those were hard times. We would go and buy hay, haul a load 25 miles round trip to the livery barn and make \$1.00 a load, hauling it in weather anywhere from 25 to 45 below zero. On those trips we would take sandwiches or a roast chicken, a 5 lb. lard pail of water and when we reached the river bank we would scrape the snow away, make a fire, boil the water and make tea and eat our lunch. One could surely drink a lot of tea in that cold weather. We were hauling the hay on the river.

While at Vermilion, I would sometimes look after cattle that were shipped to Montreal by cattle buyers. My job was to see that they were fed and watered, then I would ride back to Alberta on freight trains. We would get off the train just before it arrived in towns and meet in some shelter, the men who rode the rods had. There we could sleep or cook any handout we had to eat. We were called hobos or bums, I saw as many as 400 to 500 men riding on the tops of trains. The police did not want us to stop in the towns as they had enough

of the unemployed to feed.

I had also worked in Edmonton for Wainberg & Sons, an egg and poultry wholesale and learned to grade eggs and pack poultry. In Vermilion I worked for Weners Grocery and Drygoods store for awhile, doing the same work. There were bands of Indians around the town and they held dances in an abandoned garage every night. I used to go there and we had good times dancing. That was where I learned to dance the old time dances. After that I went back to Edmonton to grade eggs again. In those years, during the dressed poultry season, the poultry would come in from outlying areas in the month of December and we would sometimes have to work all night until the floor was cleared.

To the best of my recollections, the girls were paid 14¢ an hour for pulling pin feathers. The women who picked the birds after they were scalded were paid 17¢ an hour and the rest of us who packed received 25¢ an hour which was top wages. I was sent to Meeting Creek to pack turkeys and when we got there the farmers were lined up for over half a mile with sleigh loads of dressed turkeys. I worked 3 nights and did not sleep more than 2 hours. I packed more than a carload of turkeys myself. They were beautiful turkeys and all milk fed. These turkeys were shipped down east for the Christmas market. We also bought ducks, geese and chickens.

This was how I happened to come to Thorsby. In 1937, a law had been passed that all eggs sold in stores had to be graded. Therefore, a store had to either buy graded eggs or hire an egg grader. I was working for Wainbergs and they carried on a fair amount of business with Hoffmans in Thorsby who owned the Thorsby Traders Store. The store needed an egg grader and one who could work as a clerk as well. In those days a large portion of the grocery business consisted of the farmer's wife trading eggs for groceries or other farm produce. When I first began to work in Thorsby there was a spread in the price of eggs from grade A at 16¢ to grade B for 10¢ and grade C for 6¢ a dozen. I would get eggs to grade that were brought in to the store in lard pails, boxes of grain, or wrapped in paper individually and packed in pails.

On Saturday nights the egg containers would be lined up from the front door to the grading booth in the back of the store and I would be grading until midnight. We stayed open till the customers picked up their groceries which could be midnight or later. We worked just about every night, anywhere from 10 to 12 p.m. packing dried fruits, peas, white beans or rice

from bulk into smaller bags.

A 48 oz. can of plum jam was 45¢. A 1 lb. can of salmon sold 2 for 25¢, dried prunes were 2 lbs. for 25¢ and 20 bars of P. and G. soap (laundry) packed into a galvanized tub sold for \$1.00. Cotton prints sold from 10¢ a yard to 15¢. Cigarettes were 25 for 25¢, a can of cigarette tobacco which included 2 books of cigarette papers sold for 45 to 55¢ a can and weighed 1/2 lb.

Farmers all bought coal oil for their lamps and lanterns and the store had a pump for it out in front, similar to the gas pumps nowadays. Vinegar was sold in bulk and the housewives brought their jugs for

It was while I was working in Thorsby that I met my future wife, Gwendolyn Callaway. Her folks were one of the largest milk shippers around and she hauled milk to the cheese factory either with a Bennett buggy or an iron wheeled wagon. The Callaways always dealt at our store so Gwen would come in to buy the groceries. In those times their milk cheque was around 25 to \$30.00 which was a lot of money. I could take up half the counter space with that much of an order. We always put a little bag of candy in the customer's order, compliments of the store. It was probably a year before I learned what her name was, I used to call her that Callaway girl and would make out to be disinterested in her while she was in the store. I always thought she was a lovely girl.

There was a church right close to their house about 300 ft. from their driveway and it was usually full for both morning and evening services. Lots of young people would gather there, the Weed Creek flowed across the road near it and on Sundays young people would gather on the bridge and talk. If there was a heavy rain the bridge would sometimes be covered

with water.

I don't think Gwen ever thought I would go to church but one Sunday I surprised everyone, the heads really turned when I walked in. They were more surprised when I started to sing. Afterwards her mother invited me over for dinner and then I went to church off and on. And talked to her more in the store and would talk to her as I filled her container with coal oil at the pump outside the store.

The Callaway home was a great place for parties, as

many as 30 young people would participate in good fun, playing games and eating lunch. Those parties would last until early morning hours and her parents never seemed to mind the noise the young people made.

After working at Hoffmans for awhile, I decided I would go to B.C. but first I worked at Ellerslie for the Jones' dairy farm. They had a herd of Holsteins and their big Gothic roofed barn is still visible from the highway into Edmonton. I went to B.C. in the spring of 1939 and there was no paved road through the mountains, one watched their driving on the gravel in the mountains. I rode a freight train to Kamloops and then hitch hiked to Merrit which was 40 miles away. It was so hot, all I could think about was a drink of milk, when I got to Quilchena I bought a can of condensed milk and drank it. Boy! was it good. I got a job there on the Guichon ranch, it was a large one, about 250,000 acres and they ran thousands of Hereford cattle. Horses were trained and shipped to England from there for saddle horses. I liked it on the ranch but became lonesome for Thorsby so wrote back to Frank Hoffman and asked if he needed a clerk.

The good business man that he was, he said my job was open at a reduced salary. I had received \$72.00 a month when I worked there before and paid \$20.00 a month room and board and a kind lady, Mrs. John Rovinsky Sr. had done my laundry for 10¢ a shirt. On the ranch I was getting \$35.00 a month with excellent room and board. Working conditions were good there and the Merrit Rodeo was really something, lasting 3 days. The majority of the riders were from Guichon and Douglas Lake cattle ranches.

I returned to Thorsby to resume working for Thorsby Traders at a salary of \$40.00 a month and had to pay half of that for room and board at the Asa Clark home.

In September of 1940, I decided to follow my family's tradition in England and joined the army. I enlisted in the First Battalion of the Edmonton Fusiliers No. M31668 and within a few days was physical training instructor for the whole regiment. I was on the first P.T. Instructors Course in western Canada in Lethbridge in 1940.



Landing in the Aleutian Islands.

My rank was confirmed as a Sgt. while with the Edmonton Fusiliers and I spent 6 months in the Queen Charlotte Islands with them in 1942. I was transferred to the Rocky Mountain Rangers at Nanaimo, B.C. where we were issued American battle dress and helmets. We embarked from there with a full brigade to join the Americans on the Island of Adak in the summer of 1943. Our company commander was Capt. C.L. Keatley and the platoon commander was Lieut. J.G. Jackson of Innisfail. I was platoon sergeant and we trained there for the invasion of Kiska, one of the Islands the Japanese were on.

We would train by disembarking off landing craft and scaling cliffs. We eventually invaded Kiska with a large armada of battleships, destroyers and cruisers, bombarding it with fire power from 16 and 18 inch naval guns off the large battleships. Then we went in with the landing craft. The first Canadian casualty was a lieutenant who was killed by a booby trap. After overruning the Island there were no Japanese to be found. It appeared they had left the day before as we found hot ashes.

I arrived back in Vancouver eight months later and after further training we shipped out to Debert, Nova Scotia, to embark for overseas. We landed in England around June 1, 1944, and I was sent to France with reinforcements that month. There I joined the Canadian Scottish 1st Division and we fought at Caen, Calais, the Leopold Canal. From there I was sent to the hospital in Bruges, Belgium and then to St. Nikolaas for a rest.



Tents with tundra sods built up around them to keep the tents from blowing away in strong winds on Island of Kiska.



Sgts. of "A" Co. Rocky Montain Rangers on Kiska. D. Ross 2nd from left, American issue equipment.



Gwen and David Ross ready to board train for Calgary.

Back in England I was attached to the Canadian Provost Corp. and was a physical training instructor at Reading until I returned to Canada in October, 1945. We sailed back on the Ille De France, a 45,000 ton ship and arrived in Calgary on Oct. 25. My time spent in the armed forces was 5 years and 2 months, of that

time 54 days were spent on boats.

During my lifetime there have been many embarassing moments and one of them was while at McCord, Sask. Farmers would drive their surplus cattle down to McCrae's Ranches, a spread of 30 sections with flowing wells, near the U.S. border. Farmers paid him 50¢ a month grazing fee. The first time I drove a bunch of horses down there I borrowed a fine pair of black and white angora chaps to wear. As I went along people waved and laughed and when I arrived at the ranch later the cowboys laughed too. Then one fellow told me the chaps were on back to front and they knew I was a green Englishman.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

information compiled by Loretta Wonitov

The Alberta Provincial Police was absorbed by the RCMP on April 1, 1932, and on that same day, the force opened a detachment in Breton. Thorsby was covered by the Leduc and Breton detachments from that day until it received its own force.

Most of the courts and prisoners from the Breton-Thorsby-Leduc area came from Thorsby, so in Sept. of 1935, a cell was erected in the municipal

building there.

Although the idea of a detachment in Thorsby came up from time to time in the '50s, it wasn't until June 30, 1965 that a formal request was received from

the town asking for a detachment.

Roman Catholic Parish priest, Father D.A. MacLellan, appeared to be the moving force behind this request. He wrote several letters, including one to Harry Moore, local Member of Parliament, and various other government officials.



Thorsby R.C.M.P. Building, October 1978.

In May of 1966, the Attorney General authorized the establishment of an RCMP detachment in Thorsby, and on Feb. 1, 1967, a permanent detachment was opened with Corporal Barry Gibson in charge. The Force occupied 2 rooms in the Fire Hall Building at 49th street and 49th avenue until the late fall of 1978. At that time, a new building was erected on the lots previously occupied by the Legion Hall at the northern entrance to Thorsby.

The RCMP in Thorsby have a large area to patrol. Their boundaries stretch 2 miles west of Thorsby to 6 miles east, north to the North Saskatchewan River. and as far south as the middle of Pigeon Lake.

Since April 1, 1978, there has been a constant staff of 4 officers stationed in Thorsby under the direction of Corporal Ronal Wesner. There is also a part-time secretary employed.



Members of Thorsby R.C.M.P. detachment 1979. L. to R. Cpl. Ron Wesner, Const. A. Goodman, Const. Russ Gillispie and Const. Bruce Jackson.

JOHN AND MARIE ROVINSKY SR.

by Phyllis Ostapchuk

My grandfather was born in the village of Starina, Czechoslovakia on December 27, 1903. He married my grandmother, Marie Kostun, on June 14, 1925.

After many hardships in the old country, they decided to emigrate to Canada. My grandfather boarded a train in Starina on April 5, 1927, which took him to Holland, where he received his passport and medical checkup. From Holland he went by ship through the English Channel and docked in London, England. Here he caught a train to Liverpool, England, where he then went by ship to Quebec. The trip from Liverpool to Quebec took six days. The last part of the journey, from Quebec to Edmonton, was by C.P. Railways. His entire journey was accomplished in three weeks.

In Edmonton, a total of 3 days was spent looking for work. He and 3 other men were hired to go to Lac La Biche as farmhands. He stayed and worked there from May to June, 1927, and returned to Edmonton in July. Another 2 days were spent looking for more work. He was hired as a farmhand by John Zingel of



CPR worker, CPR foreman (Bill Laskowiecz), Mrs. Marie Rovinsky, Mr. John Rovinsky Sr., CPR worker, Mr. John Rovinsky Jr. (baby) July, 1931.

Thorsby. The monthly wage paid to my grandfather was room and board plus \$4.00.

My grandmother followed my grandfather to Canada on February 21, 1929. Her trip from Starina, Czechoslovakia to Leduc took over one month. Her journey started by train to Sherbrooke, France, where she transferred to a ship, The Asconia, and sailed for eight days to Halifax, Nova Scotia. From Halifax to Winnipeg was by C.N. Railways and from Winnipeg to Leduc was by C.P. Railways. In Leduc, she was met by my grandfather and John Zingel. Her journey was ended by a horse and sleigh ride to Zingel's farm in 40 ° below zero weather. This was a long and complicated journey for someone who was young and could not speak any other language but Ukrainian.

My grandfather continued to work for Mr. Zingel and it was at this time on January 1, 1930 that their son, my father, John Jr., was born.

In the spring of 1930, they moved into the hamlet of Thorsby and my grandfather went to work for the



1936, Mr. & Mrs. John Rovinsky Sr., Son, John. Taken in Thorsby by their house presently owned by Mrs. Hazel Chrunik.

C.P.R. for 35¢ an hour. He worked for the C.P.R. until 1944. While in Thorsby, my grandmother washed clothes for a household of eight people, from morning until evening, for a wage of 75¢ per day. The house built by my grandfather is still standing, owned and occupied by Mrs. Hazel Chrunik.

On April 5, 1940, my grandfather purchased a farm (N.W. 19-49-1 W5) five miles northwest of Thorsby, from Mr. Tobin of Leduc for the sum of

\$3,500.00.

My grandfather did mixed farming in partnership with my father until April 25, 1965, when he sold his farm to Nestor Dobko and retired into Thorsby, where my grandfather and grandmother are presently residing.

ROVINSKY, JOHN JR. AND ELIZABETH

by Phyllis Ostapchuk

My father was born January 1, 1930 in the home of John Zingel, where his parents were living and working.

My father lived in Thorsby for his first 10 years and then moved to the farm with his parents. He attended Thorsby School until grade 4 and then attended Telfordville School.

My mother, Elizabeth Chubocha, of Calmar, became my father's bride on July 4, 1950. My father and grandfather continued mixed farming on 2 quarters of land (NW 19-49-1W5 and SW 30-49-1 W5) in partnership. They also milked 28 dairy cows and sold milk daily.

On July 19, 1953, I (Phyllis) was born.

From 1953 to 1960, in between farming, my father drove an oil field truck for Ralph Shirley, moving rigs in all parts of Alberta.

On March 28, 1960, my sister, Sherry, was born.



Mr. & Mrs. John Rovinsky beside their school bus a 1975, 66 passenger bus.



John Rovinsky family of 4 generations. L. to R. John Sr., Phyllis Rovinsky. John Rovinsky Jr. and baby Jason Ostapchuk.

While still farming in partnership, my father started to drive a school bus for the County of Leduc, in September of 1960.

On April 25, 1965 the farms were sold and the families moved into Thorsby where they are still residing.

In August of 1967 my mother started to work for the Macleods store as a clerk.

My father is active in community sports, clubs and activities. He is on his 18th year driving school bus for the County of Leduc, and my mother has seen many owners come and go having worked for 12 years with Macleods.

My sister Sherry graduated from High School and enrolled at N.A.I.T. in September 1978, where she is taking a two year course in Computer Technology.

THE GROWTH OF THORSBY

as related by Jack Ruff in 1978

In 1924 my parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Ruff moved from Schuler, Alberta to this district. We moved onto the Bittner farm (which now belongs to Hamulas') and lived there for 2 years. The winter of 1924 and 25 was a very severe one and different from the weather they were used to in southern Alberta. But with lots of wood to burn the family managed to survive.

In the spring of 1926 we moved onto the land my dad had bought and buildings had to be put up. That fall the harvest was terrible. The grain couldn't be cut until the ground froze hard enough to support the weight of the binder. There were no drainage ditches so the fields didn't dry up.

The Senio brothers had a threshing machine and they threshed all around the community. The sheaves were stacked and the threshing wasn't finished until Christmas time. Roads were poor and one had to follow the high spots. In the wet seasons water was so

deep it ran into the bottoms of wagons and democrats. The little general store at Weed Creek supplied groceries for the settlers and many times we boys walked there.

The railroad coming from the west into our district was built in 1929. It was built with a dragline and men using 4 horse teams with scrapers. Mules were also used. The grade was built to one mile east of the Thorsby station and the first camp was situated on the east quarter of my dad's land. Tents housed the men and horses. The kitchen was also in a tent. The next year the line was completed into Leduc.

As the town of Thorsby was building up, my father and my brothers dug many basements with a team, walking plow and scraper. They dug the basement for the hotel, the Rolston building, the pool hall and the first restaurant which was built by Mr. Forshner.

Dirt was hauled to build approaches to the elevators and all the material used for the elevators was hauled from the loading platform to the building site by Dad and his sons. A garage was built by Jack Coleman for Gordon Knox and Jim Harder. Coleman was one of the early carpenters Vic Johnson, another carpenter, came later.

Where the Bank of Montreal now stands, a community hall was built by Clee Hale, L. Schoonover and Bill Green. School classes were held in the hall with a big curtain separating the classes. The Mudry Lumber Co. and the Beaver Lumber Co. were built. Benny Olstead was the first United Grain Growers' agent. J.B. Olson was agent for the Pioneer Elevator. They were a great asset to the hamlet for their ability as base-ball players. Our family contributed a lot to base-ball during the 1930's and 40's and I still umpire in the present time. C.M. Hale, Lawrence Ruzicka, Jim Harder, Percy Anderson, True Level, a teacher from Springhill School, were all good base-ball players.

Bus service from Breton to Edmonton was poor, because when it rained, the roads were so muddy the



August Ruff and family.

bus would become a ball of mud. The name of the bus Co. couldn't be seen on it's side because of mud. Sometimes it wouldn't get into Thorsby until 11 p.m. even though it was due in at 6 p.m. I remember a trip to Edmonton when all the passengers had to get out and push the bus up the hill at Weed Creek. A story told in those days went like this:

A man was driving through mud and slush with his team hitched to a cutter and he saw a hat on top of the slush. He reached down and lifted the hat to find a man's head under it. He asked if the man wanted a ride and was told "No thanks I'm riding a horse".

Prices were low during the mid 30's. I recall my dad sold 7 pigs and got a cheque for \$21.00. Wheat was 18¢ a bushel, barley 8¢ and oats were 4¢. Eggs sold for 4¢ a doz.

A flour mill was built and operated by Allan MacDonald in Thorsby in the early 1930's. A Mr. Braun became miller afterwards and eventually the equipment was sold and the building torn down. It was located west of the cheese factory.

My brother Willie, Bill Techer and myself played for house parties in those years. Willie played the violin, Bill the banjo and I played the guitar. Sometimes Gordon Burgess played the violin or guitar with us. He later married my sister Bertha. Our other entertainment was attending dances in Telfordville, Sunnybrook, Warburg or Calmar. A man could go to a dance and have lunch and dance until 3 or 4 a.m. for 25 ¢ in those times. The girls would take something for lunch and everyone would have a good time. We would go with a sleigh and take 12 to 16 people with us as the roads were too bad for a car most of the time.

There was no money and it was almost impossible to borrow from the banks in those days. Everyone had to struggle along and build up bit by bit.

The community hall in Thorsby was turned into a general store with Mr. Panar as the first proprietor. The next owner was N. Prepes and then Isaac Simpkins acquired it. When his sons Louis and Harry went into army service I went to work for him and



Ruff Orchestra.

worked for him until 1945 when he sold out to Norman Hoffman,

I had worked in the cheese factory in 1942 when Charlie Evans was manager. The only refrigeration it had then was to open the windows on the north side of the building. The cheese was made in 90 lb. blocks and had to be turned every day. The cheese was kept for aging up to 3 months. That old factory is now part of the present N.A.D.P. garage.

I was working for Norman Hoffman when his store burned down on Dec. 9, 1947. It was 23 degrees below zero when the fire broke out at 12:15 p.m. I remember Lloyd Robinson came into the store to inform us of the fire. It had started in Hubbard's Radio Shop at the south end of the block.



Thorsby fire, December 1948. Burning several businesses.

Next to the radio shop was Gus Steven's Welding Shop and next to it was Alex Lepine's Barber Shop. Lepine had left and a man named Hyde was barbering in it. Miss Pat Sandmaier had a beauty parlor beside it and the Western Messenger printing office was in the bottom of the old Forshner restaurant. The upstairs of the building had been converted to rooms for rent. A big long narrow warehouse for storing flour, feeds and other merchandise was next to the store.

The whole block was leveled by 3:30 p.m. with only \$9,600.00 worth of goods salvaged from the store. It was carried out by people and piled in the street until the goods could be hauled to Andy Blomquist's barn. Looting and breakage took place as well.

Hoffman set up a temporary store in Clee Hale's building next to Gus Turnquist's shop and sold the salvaged goods at 10% above wholesale price. He lost heavily from the fire, as it was before Christmas he had extra stock on hand. He had also bought a lot of dressed turkeys and they weren't insured as he had expected to have them trucked to Edmonton for the Christmas market.

The year 1940 was important as that was when I married Doris Forbes. She was the oldest daughter of our neighbor Huge Forbes who lived just east of us. When I bought our 80 acre farm from L. Schoonover in 1943 it had no buildings, fences nor a well and was covered with heavy bush. We paid \$1300.00 for it, and have made our home on it ever since. We are one mile east, ½ mile north and ½ mile east of Thorsby.

I remember a bad flood in 1945, which was the result of heavy rains. The hotel basement windows were taken out and one could see the basement was full of water. Rafts and boats were used to get around in Thorsby. As there were no adequate ditches to carry the water off to the creek it backed up right to the Pioneer elevator and the road was all covered over.

Another time water from a spring thaw rose high enough to run into the store I worked in. It ran in through one side door and out the north door. The building had no foundation and had settled almost level to the ground.

I worked in the cheese factory again in 1947 and 48 and have worked off and on for 35 years in Thorsby stores up until Dec. 2, 1977 and farmed besides.

In 1968 a happy event occurred in our lives. I won a trip to Vancouver, B.C. to appear on the Royalite Gas show "Windfall". It was April 29 when we went and I appeared on the show May 1st. My first prize was a fine mattress and the 4th prize was a week's stay at Lake Louise Hotel with all expenses paid and a Tilden's rent-a-car for 2 weeks. It came with gas and all expenses paid. In Vancouver we took a city bus tour and saw many sights.

Doris and I have 3 children. Harvey, who is married and lives in Grande Prairie. He is a bookkeeper for a construction firm there. Harvey married Lorraine Snider from Carstairs and they have 2 daughters Cheryl and Barbara.

Treasa our only daughter, is a school teacher and has taught in Thorsby schools since finishing university. She lives at home with us.

Jackie is 17 and attending Thorsby High School and lives at home with us.

I am a Co-op member and a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool. Square dancing interests us when there is time for it.

Roads and streets here seem like paradise compared with what they used to be. The farms all have larger fields too and life is easier than it used to be. As a pioneer resident of this community I have seen many changes.



Seated, Stanley. L. to R. Jack, Norman, Dave, Reinhold and Sam.

THE SAMARDZIC FAMILY

by Bob Samardzic

Matt Samardzic Sr., better known as "Old Matt", (1888-1955) and Fanny Mudry, our mother, together raised 3 sons (Fred, Matt Jr., and Bob) and 2 daughters (Victoria and Frances) all in that order.

Dad ran away from home in Brod, Croatia at the age of 11 years, stowed away aboard the Cunarder, Carpathia in Trieste, Italy, and sailed with her for

many years.

The time of his arrival into Alberta is not exactly known, it has been lost to time itself. After a life of toiling, wandering, coalmining, moonshining, bootlegging, and homesteading, he and Mom settled into what is now the town of Thorsby. Dad started with Imperial Oil as a bulk agent and McCormick-Deering dealer. He served several terms on the council of the M.D. of Pioneer. Dad built up a good fuel oil and farm machinery business and had the respect of the farm trade and the community for his fair and unselfish dealings.



Mr. & Mrs. Matt Samardzic, Sr., in the back yard of their home in Thorsby, 1955.

There were always funny little things happening. When, as a boy, I'd go along with dad on his deliveries, one series of episodes in particular, comes to mind. Dad, after doing his business with his farmer friends would come back to the truck carrying a 1 or 2 quart jug. I'd ask him what was in it and he'd always say, "honey for your flapjacks". It didn't occur to me until years later that of all the honey the old man pocketed, we got damned little for our flapjacks. Being a drinking man, it must have been moonshine, what else?

Because of the rough life he had, and because of his own wanderings, Dad and Mom never turned a man or boy away from our place during the depression years. There was always grub and a bunk for these unfortunate wanderers — always some work and some cash for them to be on their way with. Mom did a lot of cooking and washing for these men. After the War a few of these men came back to say "thanks" — some with a jug of hooch and some just because they were good people.

About 1943, things picked up and Dad built a new place of business. Today after 50 years, it is still International Harvester and operated under the name of Matt Samardzic (Jr.) and Son (Randy). During the 30's Ernie Hailstone was the original blockman and at present has his own F.E. Business in Chilliwak, B.C.



Frances & Victoria Samardzic.

Mom again, is another story. She came to Alberta (then the N.W.T.) in 1900 as a baby, to the ½ section she owns today — SW 32-48-1 W5. All her life she has worked very hard along side Dad. Besides being a coal miner's wife in Alberta's mine-heads, she did her share of work on the land, and in the shop, besides tending the home, garden, milk cows, chickens, pigs, and the litter of us 5 kids. Today (Oct. 1, 1978) she lives in the same old house in Thorsby, raises a top notch garden and is able and healthy. At 78 years of age she can still work the butt off women half her age.

Our sisters, Victoria and Frances were born at home and delivered by Dr. Hankin.

Frances at present is living in Drayton Valley, married to Bill Jeppesson. As a young lady, she was with Northern Communications in the Yukon. All grades in school were taken and completed in Thorsby. She served for 3 years in the women's division of the Royal Canadian Navy — a good provider and a very good cook.

Vickie was also in the Yukon and there met and married Harold Simpson of Cape Breton Island, N.S. They were married in the little log church in Whitehorse. The two of them operated Twilite Service and Tilden Car rentals in Watson Lake. Recently they sold their business and bought an orchard in Summerland, B.C. on Garnitt Ave. They have 3 children, Ivey, Trish, and Brian. As always they work like horses and their orchard production is up from the previous owners — but prices are down 3-5¢ for apples.

Brother Matt, his good wife Olga and son Randy operate the business established by Dad 50 years ago. Up to the present time, Matt has served the farming



Bob Samardizic.



Fred Samardzic, while working as tool push for Can Tex Drilling in Saskatchewan,

community from east of Highway #2, west to the Saskatchewan River, also north and south as far as you want to go. As a boy, besides helping to raise up to 500 hogs, setting up old horse binders, and serving 15-30 and 22-36 tractors, Matt took real pride in the possession of one beautiful Jersey cow that brought him prizes at the local fair. She was truly his first love.

Matt married Olga Knull of Michigan Centre, S.W. of Leduc. They have 1 son Randy, who was recently married to Gail Hutchison of Wetaskiwin, and 1 daughter Shelley who attends school.

Matt and Olga have served the community well and have built up a good farm trade. They take pride in their home and well kept grounds.

As I've told Matt many times, a good machine dealer is as important to a farming area as a doctor, grocer or druggist.

Matt was born in Luscar in 40 below zero weather in a tent. How well Mom remembers!

Brother Fred, has made his mark, if not his career in life, in the oil field. His youth was spent in helping at home. When the oilfield work started he went to work for Contex & Commonwealth Drilling. He was there when Golden Spike #1 was brought in at Spruce Grove. He has worked for several oil companies in Australia, Borneo, and Iran and was thrown in jail and deported from Algeria for taking pictures of their own rig. He has just returned from working off shore in the Persian Gulf for the United Arab Republic. His policy after job completion is to travel and see the world. He has been to every continent on the globe and has a couple hundred rolls of film taken of his travels. Fred was born on the original homestead S.W. of Thorsby. He served with the Royal Canadian Army.

Bob, (myself) was also born on the farm and delivered by a neighbor lady, Mrs. Massner since passed away (God bless her). I had my belly button cord tied with binder twine. As a young lad, I learned the printing trade with the Western Messenger and the Leduc Representative with Bill and Ola Clark. I joined the Navy at 17½ and served aboard the Cruiser H.M.C.S. Uganda. I came to Breton in 1947 as Imperial Oil agent and IHC dealer, and married my good wife Gwen Fadden on July 1, 1948. We were married by Fred Knebel, my old Ship's Padre.

At present writing we have the old Antross Mill property S.W. of Breton where we farm and raise cattle. We have 1 son, Robert Jr., who like his uncle Fred, has taken to the oil field, where at present he is a driller with Baltic Drilling. Our daughter Barbara, born, educated and raised in Breton is now married to Elwood Johnson of Breton and is teaching school. She is the mother of a fine granddaughter — the 4th generation — Stacey by name and a real ball of fire at 1 year of age. As a family we have been blessed by many things, but she's the finest single thing that has happened to us.

There is much more to our history than is written here, but we must leave space for others. We wish this publication every success. God bless those who



Samardzic family of 4 generation. L. to R. Fred Samardzic holding niece Stacey Johnson, great grandmother Fanny Samardzic, Robert Samardzic the grandfather and his daughter Barbara Johnson, the baby's mother.

pioneered this area, with all the mud, mosquitoes, rocks, roots, brush and bush fires and death of loved ones.

As a family we are proud to be and have been associated with such fine friends and neighbors as the Callaways, Pankewitzs, Halladays, Mudrys, Graves, Woods, Rinas', Worsheks, Fjaller Johnson, Zieners, Bentleys, Radowitz, Brods, Knopps, Madiuks, Kisons, Steins, Campbells, Pasulas, Finks, Massners, Martinoffs, Dedios, Arthurs, Hankins, Rolstons, Gus Stevens, Neids, MacRaes, Shilsons, Libbys, Krugers, Bowering and many, many more. They know who they are. This is our story — 90 years and 4 generations are a long time.

ORLAND SIMMONS

by Elsie

Orland Simmons acquired his land through a loan from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (D.V.A.) shortly after his return home after serving with the Canadian Army in France during the First World War. His father, William Simmons, shared in the work of clearing the land and getting it under cultivation, and later bought land for himself adjacent to Orland's.

In 1926 Orland married Elsie Kvarnberg, daughter of Andrew and Kerstin Kvarnberg, who immigrated to Canada from Sweden in 1905 with their 5 children and settled on a homestead 16 miles west of Leduc.

The Simmons' farm produced mostly grain and hay, besides potatoes and garden stuff. Horses were bought and sold to settlers to the west of them, and cattle were fed for the beef market. They kept a good-sized flock of registered sheep and supplied breeding stock to sheep farmers throughout the western provinces. Orland served for many years on the local School Board and during that time a new

one-roomed school was built to take the place of the old log structure. This was the school where our son, Orlie received the first years of his learning.

Those were difficult years, especially before tractors came into common use, so that clearing and cultivating land meant hard labor for men and horses. In the homes too, very few could afford any of the modern comforts and devices which are taken for granted today.

One of the highlights of those years was the day the first train made its journey over the newly constructed Lacombe and Northwestern Railway, which ran through the farm not far from the house. This was surely a new era for the whole countryside, as towns and railway sidings came into being, almost overnight. The tall grain elevators could be seen for miles around. This was at the start of the depression and the construction work involved many jobs.

Then there was Thorsby - emerging on the muskeg land which the railroad company bought from C. Hale for a townsite. What excitement to have only 4 miles to town and watch the growth and meet the people.

The cold winters and hard work took their toll on Orland's health, aggravating a disability he had suffered in the trenches in France during the war. In time he could no longer carry on the heavy tasks of farm work. In 1939 he and I decided there must be a better way to live. We rented out the farm which was 4 miles east of town, and moved to Thorsby with our son Orlie in the spring of 1940, into a house built by Jack Coleman on a lot purchased from Joe Ruzicka.

Orland served as Secretary of the Strawberry School District during the years (approximately) 1944 till the spring of 1949.

Orland worked as clerk in the drug store or the Beaver Lumber Hardware, whenever extra help was needed in either place. Later, I accepted the job of editing the local paper, the Western Messenger; a weekly, printed in Leduc but distributed throughout the western communities from the Thorsby office. I held this job for 2 years and then the secretarial position for the Strawberry School Division which became available when the Bradbury's accepted a position with the Leduc County. Orland took on this job and I quit the "paper" to become part-time typist and assistant.

John Scoffield was the Superintendent of Schools for the newly formed School Division, whose office was also in what was commonly known as the 'school office'. The school office became the meeting place for teachers from all the schools in the large area west of Thorsby, and Orland always kept the office open Saturdays when many came to town on business and to pick up school supplies. There were approximately 70 teachers on the payroll, besides janitors and maintenance people. One of the early settlers in Thorsby, Vic Johnson, served the school district as carpenter for many years.

This period was a busy time in Thorsby, especially

during the war years. Orland was active in the local branch of the Canadian Legion and I was a member of the Red Cross and the United Church Women's group. I helped with fund raising for the different projects, such as sending parcels to the boys of the community serving with the Armed Forces; and also took part in sewing, knitting and quilting for Red Cross parcels for overseas relief. When the war was over the workers turned their energy toward serving the needs of the district, thus the Community League was organized and this is still a very active force in the area.

In 1949 Orlie graduated from high school and planned to attend university. Our family then moved to Edmonton and Orlie commenced classes in Engineering at the University of Alberta that fall. He graduated in 1953 and became involved with Hydro Construction in Alberta, Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan. His work eventually took him to a project in B.C. on construction of the Duncan Lake dam, which was a part of the Columbia River project. This was a 4 year job and during that period he, his wife Jackie and 3 daughters fell in love with the country. The girls acquired ponies, dogs, cats and chickens. They found a piece of land in the Proctor area and soon put down roots toward a more permanent home. Since the family were to become B.C. residents, Orland and I decided to "go west" too, and leave the cold winters of Alberta, choosing Nelson as a place to live. Nelson is 20 miles from O rlie's farm.

Orlie and family worked very hard to improve the place. The girls attended the local school and later were bused to Nelson. Orlie got work on different jobs in B.C. and was later taken on the staff of a construction firm in Vancouver. Recently he, Jackie and the 2 youngest girls moved to Vancouver to be near the centre of his work. Wendy, the eldest daughter, manages the farm, the quarter horses and a herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle. On graduating from high school she attended horsemanship classes in an equestrian stable near London, England and furthered this training in stables at the Coast for 2 years. She is a qualified riding instructor and had a small class during the past summer.

Orland died in 1974 after some years of failing health. I live in Nelson and participate in the work of some women's groups. My hobbies are gardening, rug and quilt making and playing bridge. I enjoy happy times at the farm when Orlie and family gather for holidays and long weekends together.

THOR AND ELAINE SOLBERG

In November, 1960, a Norwegian freighter made its way up the St. Lawrence to Montreal, where it deposited a young man with "Landed Immigrant" status, who had come to Canada to learn the language.

His qualifications included a degree of "Master Watch-maker" from his home city of Oslo. His destination was Edmonton, where there awaited some Norwegian friends. Three days on the train west became a gastronomical nightmare as the only item he understood on the menu was "bacon and eggs', so 3 meals each day consisted of just that. Strange looks from the waiter accompanied the lunch and supper orders. How he longed to visit with someone on the train, however, should someone start a conversation, he was forced to turn away as not a word did he understand. Such was the beginning of an 18 year stay, to date, for Thor Willy Solberg.

Upon arrival in Edmonton, he was welcomed by a Norwegian family and began the task of finding a job where a language barrier was overlooked. Irving Kline Ltd. Jewellers, hired him at a salary of \$35.00 per week. On staff was a Norwegian who could translate when necessary. He enrolled in night classes at Victoria Composite High School to study English. You can be sure the first he learned was to ask for a raise, and as his English improved, so did his wages.

In November, 1962, at the wedding of a mutual friend, he met a Thorsby girl, Elaine MacRae, and in August, 1963 a wedding joined these 2 cultures.

Thor and Elaine lived and worked in Edmonton; however Thor liked the village of Thorsby and wanted to make their home there. The decision to open a dry cleaning plant was based mostly on which business they felt could do well in Thorsby. Thor immediately began a training program with an Edmonton cleaner, who also trained Elaine in the art of marking, spotting, and pressing. A building was constructed next to Thorsby Agencies and in November of the same year, began a 9 year work-a-thon in Thor Cleaners. The heat in the summer was unbelievable and they looked forward to winter when the plant was comfortable, but the twice weekly deliveries were not much fun in the snow. The business thrived and the Solbergs settled into a contented life.

In July, 1967 Thor, Elaine and her sister Doreen made their first trip to Norway. This was Elaine's first meeting with her in-laws, Thor's sister had attended their wedding, but his parents had not yet met their new daughter. Happily, it was a successful meeting. They also toured Denmark, Germany, Holland, and England. On their return, Elaine's bout of sea-sickness heralded the birth of their daughter, Karin Rae, on March 1 of the following year. Following this, Elaine worked only the days Thor delivered dry-cleaning out of town, so the bulk of the work was left to Thor. In September of 1968, they bought and moved to their home, where they still live.

In 1969, Thor's parents and sister visited Thorsby, their first meeting with their only grand-child.

In 1971, with the advent of polyester, the cleaning equipment was sold, and Thor Cleaners ceased to operate.

In February of 1972, Elaine's Fabrics opened in the same building. Unhappily, just 2 days after opening,

Elaine lost her father, but because of the kind understanding of her customers, was able to carry on. Thor went back to his trade as watch-maker. In May of that year he took Karin for a three-week visit to Norway, arriving in time for the Norwegian Independence Day celebrations on May 17. On his return to Canada, he commuted daily to Drayton Valley, where he worked in Oilfield Instrumentation, valuable experience and training for him. The Solbergs spent Christmas of 1973 in Norway with Thor's family.

In January 1975, Thor joined Texaco Explorations as an operator in their new gas plant at Bonnie Glen, work much closer to home. When shift work for Thor, and Elaine working 6 days a week, meant little time to spend together, it was decided the time had come for Elaine to retire. In Feb. 1976, exactly 4 years in the fabric shop ended, and the business was sold. These had been very happy and satisfying years. Busy with many sewing projects and classes, there had always been time for a cup of coffee with a customer. Many good friendships developed and happily, many still find to come to the house for a visit and a cuppa coffee. Elaine quickly and happily adjusted to the life of a house-wife.

In Sept. 1976, the Solberg's and Elaine's mother Ruby MacRae, again visited overseas. Elaine and her mother visited relatives in Northern Ireland, Mrs. MacRae's first visit to her parent's homeland, before joining Thor and Karin in Norway. Christmas that year was doubly blessed when Karin's long awaited brother, David Georg Andrew, was born on



Mr. & Mrs. Thor Solberg & family.

December 29. The family was now complete. Thor's sister visited in April, 1977 to witness the baptism of the baby.

The summer of 1977 was a busy one, when, with the help of many friends and neighbors, a swimming pool was added to the Solberg house, a spot of great joy on a hot, summer day.

Summer of 1978 was spent in Norway, where Thor's parents met their only grandson, born on their 48th wedding anniversary. Elaine, Karin and an aunt Mrs. Alice McCarroll, spent 2 weeks in Northern Ireland and Scotland before arriving in Norway.

Thor's parents, at 75 and 80 years of age, are well, and content that their only son has chosen to remain in Canada.

Thorsby has been a very satisfying choice for a home for the Solbergs. Elaine is a busy and happy wife and mother, an active member of the Thorsby and District Community League, fills her spare time sewing, upholstering and needle work, wondering often how she ever had time to work. Thor is truly a Thorsbyite, enjoys many good friendships and has never regretted his decision to make this his home.

JOSEPH AND MADELINE SIEBEN

By Marlyn (Sieben) Schmolke

Joe and Madeline were married in Bodo, Alberta on Sept. 1, 1952. In the following years, they lived in Macklin, Sask. for four years, and in Edmonton for five years before moving to Thorsby during the spring of 1961.

They have three children. Marlyn, born in Macklin, Sask. on Aug. 13, 1954 is the oldest and is married to Const. Harry Schmolke and recently has moved to North Vancouver, B.C. where Harry is employed with the R.C.M.P.

Marlene, also born in Macklin Sask. on July 18, 1955 is married to Florian Petruch Jr. They reside in Thorsby and have a son, Michael. Flori is apprenticing as a plumber, and works for Globe Heating and Plumbing. A daughter, Kathy Helena, was born to them on March 21, 1979.

Omar, born in Edmonton on Nov. 18, 1956 (his mother's birthday) is presently employed with C.N.R.

Presently Joe is working in Edmonton, and has been active in cadets, and recently the Bearcats football team. Madeline has worked in the Thorsby Hotel Cafe for the last 14 years.



Sieben families. L. to R. Omar Sieben, Florian and Marlene Petruch, Marilyn and Harry Schmolke, Madeline and Joe Sieben. March 15, 1974.

HAROLD & ARLENE STEIN

In 1958, in Wetaskiwin, Harold Stein and Arlene Dunlop, childhood friends, were married. They moved to Edmonton, where Harold was employed by Calgary Power.

The following year, after the birth of Susan, the Stein's were transferred to the village of Thorsby where Harold assumed the position of Assistant District Manager for Calgary Power. They were pleased with the move to a smaller centre, in spite of the conditions of the streets, as this was the year natural gas was installed. They settled in Dan Wohlman's house.

Three more children have been born to Harold and Arlene; Douglas in 1962, Terry in 1965, and Barbara in 1968.

In 1969 they bought a home in the village and have spent many happy years in it.

The years have been busy ones raising the children. The boys have been active in baseball, hockey and football. Harold has been active in the management and coaching areas of minor sports for many years. Arlene maintains an interest in ceramics and books.

Susan has now graduated from high school and is working in Edmonton. Doug is in Grade 11, Terry in Grade 8 and Barbara in Grade 5.



Harold and Arlene Stein of Thorsby.

Harold's job with Calgary Power covers a very large area and they have met a great many people in the district, an experience that is not often available to people in a city.

Harold and Arlene have enjoyed living in Thorsby and have never regretted the move here.

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, THORSBY

written by Gwendolyn Ross with assistance from Ella Schmidt

In November 1926 Pastor Duesterhoeft visited the John Fink, Fred Massner, Stephan Sulz and Julius Brier families in the Dniester School district to interest them in establishing a Lutheran congregation. They were the only families of that denomination in the area and had all come from southern Alberta. The first service was held on Sept. 4, 1927 with 21 adults present. From then on as many regular services as possible were held and were conducted by either



Bethany Church Sunnybrook, was (Mother Church) for the areas Warburg, Morrowdale, Telfordville & Sunnybrook.

Relocated in Leduc.

Pastor A. Goos or Pastor W. Wahl. Some of the services were held in the Dniester School and on Feb. 28, 1928 the marriage of Miss Leah Meckley and Paul Fink took place in the school. A decision was made to undertake to build a church and pledges were given to donate \$5.00 and \$10.00, within a few minutes over \$100.00 was pledged and a building committee was organized. On Dec. 29, 1929 the new church was dedicated. It stood on land that William Rasch had given on his farm about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Thorsby.

The church was called the Sunnybrook Bethany Lutheran Community Church. In 1930 a parish was organized consisting of Bethany, Sunnybrook, St. Peter's, Patience, and St. Paul, Buford. This was served by Pastor Wahl for a short time, when Pastor Kleiner came to serve until the end of that year. His salary for 1931 was \$18.00. In 1933 the pastor received \$12.00 for the whole year and in 1932 the offerings for a whole month were \$15.78 and expenses were \$13.55. When Pastor Goos came out to preach he received \$2.10 for a month's trip.

In 1932 two weddings were solemnized in the church. Emil Fink to Elfrieda Sulz and Rudolph Klatt to Hilda Bejerbach

Mr. Rasch sold his farm in 1933 and the new owner requested the church and adjoining cemetery be relocated. It was moved by teams of horses onto the



Moving the Lutheran Church, by the modern way at the time.

corner of John Fink's farm $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Sunnybrook. The cemetery was moved too. It remains today in the same location it was moved to. Another wedding was held in the church on Feb. 12, 1934, that of Ed Bilou and Ida Massner.

The building was moved again in 1936, this time into the hamlet of Sunnybrook, and again by horses.

Some of the members then were, Briers, Kunkels, Wacholzs, Kaus', Wegners, Borgstedes, P. Krugers, Albert Schmidts, and Lemkes.

After several years the congregation dropped to only seven families and finally in 1956 they joined the St. Matthew congregation in Thorsby. The church building was sold to the Anglican congregation in Leduc and was moved again, this time in another direction, to Leduc.

November 1926 saw Pastor Duesterhoeft and Pastor A. Goos calling upon families living in the Fruitland and Strawberry Creek area, with the hope of establishing a church. Their first service was held Dec. 5, 1926 with 10 people present. Those represented were Charles Moellers, Emil Gunschs, Andrew Klemkys, Charles Sniders, Mrs. M. Gitzel, Herb Dentmans, and Alex Knopps. The previous day a church school had been held with 15 children attending.

There was interest in establishing a church and 3 men from the Heimthahl Lutheran church, Gottlieb Wedman, J. Oswald and Emil Filan, came to a meeting in one of the homes and encouraged the men to build, promising them financial help. Rudolph Stein and Fred Gunsch went to collect the promised monies and Oscar Bablitz of the Gnadenthahl church pledged an

amount and gave it at the dedication of the new church. Local people involved, including the Fred Klatts each gave \$10.00. A piece of land was purchased in Thorsby from Asa Clark in 1932 for the sum of \$1000.00. With aid from the Board of American Missions in the amount of \$450.00, the church was built in 1934. Before it was built services were held in the Thorsby School. The small house on the Clark property became the Lutheran manse, and it was there Ruth Klemky and Robert Grohn were married on Jan. 26, 1934.

During the following years the manse was enlarged and renovated a few times. It was sold to the Fred Knopp family in 1957 when a new larger manse was built.

The congregation grew as the church building was begun and some of the new members were the Baumans, Brods, Vic Johnsons, Mrs. Henry Ohrn, and Mr. and Mrs. Neid Sr. Vic Johnson was a carpenter and built the new church at a cost of about \$400.00.

It was dedicated on Nov. 30, 1934 and the baptism of babies, Harvey Moeller, Dorothy Dentman and Asta Thiel, was held as well as a confirmation and communion service.

In May of 1933, Pastor A. Goos was sent out by the Mission Board to serve the new church. He served Thorsby, Morrowdale, and had preaching points at Fisher Home, Buford, Breton and Carnwood. He used a portable organ to accompany the singing. The first wedding in the Thorsby church may have been that of Elsie Klemky and Leo Seirpinski on June 19, 1935. Her sister Alma Klemky married John



St. Matthew - July 1954.

Litzenberger in the church on Dec. 14, 1938.

Pastor Goos served the parish until August 1942 when he left for Saskatoon. Jan. 1943 brought Pastor Fred Oswald with his family to Thorsby, to serve the parish. He accepted a call fromTrinity in Edmonton in Dec. 1945 and in May 1946 Pastor Fred Knebel came to serve until 1948. Pastor Louis Schoepp arrived in March of 1949 and in 1952 he also became pastor of the Telfordville-Warburg parish. That year was a milestone in the parish as the churches at Telfordville and Warburg were merged with the others in the parish and it became known as the Thorsby parish. In June 1954 Pastor Henry Poggenmiller came with his family to serve the parish. It was during his ministry that a new manse was built in Thorsby by the parish.

He accepted a call to Creston, B.C. in June 1960 and Pastor Kurt Adelsberger arrived from Saskatoon to serve the parish until 1965 when he answered a call to Leduc. There was a vacancy for several months until Sept. 1 of that year when Pastor John Kleiner came with his wife Heather to serve. He was the youngest son of the Pastor Kleiner who had worked earlier in the Dniester-Sunnybrook area to establish a church. Heather Kleiner was a teacher and taught school in Thorsby for part of the time they were in Thorsby. In 1968 they returned to the States so that John could continue his education. He obtained his Doctorate degree and later returned to Canada to teach at the Lutheran Seminary in Saskatoon.

Pastor Harold Felstrom and wife Arlene came the fall of 1968 and remained until he accepted a call to Ponoka in 1973. He and John Kleiner were both newly ordained when they came to Thorsby. Again the parish was without a pastor until March 1974 when seminarian Donald Bolstad accepted a call to Thorsby parish. He was the first minister to be ordained in Thorsby and was installed during the ordination service in May 1974.

It was during the early 1960's, in Pastor Adelsberger's ministry, that the congregation decided to build a new and larger church in Thorsby. The old St. Matthew's Church was too small after 30 years.

A building committee was chosen comprised of Arthur Schmidek, chairman, Henry Badtke, head carpenter, David Ross, vice-chairman, Sam Ollenberg, secretary and Adolph Besler as treasurer. Emil Nikolai, R. Stein, Arnold Bablitz, L. Mottl, Neil Wageman, Ervin Schmidt and Arnold Krueger were members of the committee and the architect was Sieghard Schmidt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Schmidt of Morrowdale district. The committee worked very closely with the church council who were, Gwendolyn Ross (who was the first woman elected to serve on the church council in the parish), Ray Stern, Emil Nikolai, Ivan Schmidt, Art Schmidek and Eric Grohn.

Plans were drawn for a cement block structure complete with basement, large enough to accommodate 275 people, to be built on the site of the old church building. The old building was taken apart and



Dedication of St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

removed from the premises by the late Gus Ratke.

The congregation was able to build with the aid of a loan of \$14,000.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Fred Klatt. The church was dedicated on Dec. 13, 1964. Payments on the loan were met each year. The final payment was declined by Mrs. Klatt as her husband had passed away before it came due. The mortgage was burned in a special ceremony in the church.

The first couple married in it were Barbara Bablitz and Dennis Hebner in Sept. 1965 and the second wedding was that of Carole Ross and Andris Strauss on Oct. 9, 1965.

A Memorial Fund was set up towards the purchase, of an electric organ. When it was acquired the fund was continued for new oak pews. After they were installed the fund continued and a public address system was installed in 1976.

Organists over the years were, Doris Gitzel and Lily Stein who played in Thorsby. Mrs. Albert (Helen) Schmidt served as organist in the Sunnybrook church and played at Carnwood, Warburg, Telfordville, Morrowdale and in the Thorsby church after they moved into the village to live. Several of the ministers wives played the organ during their stay. Other organists have been the Misses Diane and Darlene Schmidek, Mrs. Arnold (Linda) Krueger, her sister Ella (Mrs. Ervin Schmidt), Mrs. Stan Plested (Jan) and Misses Leona and Norma Kruger.

The Thorsby church has continued to grow as more people move into the village and community. There have been setbacks too. On Thanksgiving Day in 1976 fire broke out in the basement of the manse, damaging the house extensively.

The minister's family had to be accommodated elsewhere for several months while repairs were made to the house and the interior refinished.

The church basement has been finished since that time with carpeting on the floors of the Sunday School rooms, cupboards built in them for storage and curtains have been hung to divide the large meeting room. The kitchen has been finished with adequate cupboards and many new stacking chairs and tables were purchased.

In 1978 janitors were hired for weekly cleaning, thus relieving women of the congregation from that chore. A newer electric typewriter was purchased and the basement was upgraded for fire safety.

Pastor Don Bolstad accepted a call to Whitehorse, Yukon in the summer of 1978 and David Morck, who was interning for a year at St. Matthew's, filled the pastoral vacancy after the Bolstad family's departure. David and his wife Janet and 2 daughters Genevieve and Melanie moved into the manse and served the congregations of the parish.

The 1978 report showed 5 baptisms in the church, 12 weddings, 5 funeral services and a baptised membership of 223 as of Dec. 31, 1978. The approved budget for the coming year was \$35,650.00 and the church council for 1979 were Mrs. Ella Schmidt, Vern



Confirmation - March 30th, 1947.
Back row: L. to R. Robert Kison, Marvyn Fink, Pastor Knebel, Herbert Wagner, David Gitzel. Middle row: Glen Fink, Harvey Martinoff, Wilfred Fink, Ernie Masner, Sieghard Schmidt. Front row: Jean Martinoff, Dorothy Dentman, Adeline Klemky, Edna Masner, Lilly Stein, Leona Johnson, Esther Forster, Cora Gitzel.

Muth, Ray Stern, Gerhard Neuman, Eric Grohn, Ernest Snider and Arnold Krueger. Mrs. Ernest Snider was re-elected superintendent of the Sunday School and teachers for the year were Norma Krueger alternating with Mrs. V. Muth, Linda Krueger alternating with Shirley Ollenberg, Eileen Snider alternating with Ella Schmidt and Henry Krueger alternating with Irma Schmidt. Mr. Morck would teach the Confirmation class. David Mork accepted the congregational call to serve the parish in April, 1979. He was ordained and installed in a joint service in May in Thorsby.



LUTHER LEAGUE OF THORSBY

by Ella Schmidt

Young people have always been active in the life of the Lutheran church. In the early 1950's there was a large group of the Luther League in the parish. For several years they prepared and presented a Mothers Day program.

When the Rev. A. Goos was in Thorsby the young peoples group included several from other denominations. They formed a choir and sang over radio once.

They hold meetings twice a month with Bible studies and other organized events such as hay rides, wiener roasts, ball games. In winter there are curling games, socials, occasionally a trip to meet with another Luther League in a neighboring community. At Christmas time they go carolling and sometimes visit the elderly in a senior citizens home. They hold a Candlelight Service in one of the churches within the parish each Christmas Eve. At least once a year the youth plan, organize and hold the services on a Sunday in the parish and sing as a group for special occasions. The ages of members range from about 13 up to adulthood. Most of the younger people leave the League when they go away to attend universities or to seek employment away from home.

A married couple who have been members previously often serve as advisors to the group. In 1979 Bob and Crystal Krueger are advisors for the entire central district of Luther League in Alberta.

In 1979 the group are small in number but active in League work. They are all from the St. Matthew congregation in Thorsby. During the early 1950's the League had the largest membership, and were naturally more involved because of their numbers.

LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN OF THORSBY

About 1934 a Lutheran Ladies Aid was organized in Thorsby under the guidance of Pastor A. Goos. Records aren't available as to numbers, but there were a fair number of members, some were not of the Lutheran denomination but joined together in



Lutheran Womens Missionary Society about 1934. Back row: Freida Fink, Mrs. Neid, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Gus Stevens, Miss Speers (school teacher). Mrs. J. Arthur, Mrs. Delamater, Mrs. Henry Ohrn, Ernestine Schoonover, Mrs. G. Knox, Mrs. A. Goos, Mrs. Ted Powell, Mrs. Berezan, Mrs. A. Clark, Mrs. Downey, Mrs. J. Hier. Children Leona Johnson and Lyle Hier.

working to spread the Christian faith. Meetings were held each month and various projects undertaken, also Bible study.

When the Thorsby United Church was built some of the women left the Lutheran society to form a United Church women's group. Some of the early members were, Mrs. Art Fink, Mrs. Gus Stevens, Mrs. F. Neid, Mrs. Martin, Miss Speers, Mrs. J. Arthur, Mrs. Henry Ohrn, Mrs. H. Delamater, Mrs. G. Knox, Mrs. T. Powell, Mrs. Berezan, Mrs. Asa Clark, Mrs. A. Downey, Mrs. John Hier, Mrs. Vic Johnson, Mrs. A. Goos and there were others.

In 1938 Pastor Goos organized a women's group in his congregation in the Fruitland district and they held monthly meetings in their homes. Their Bible study was carried out in the German language and the pastor attended all of their meetings. Some of those early members were Mrs. R. Stein, Mrs. Bill Moeller, Mrs. Charles Snider, Mrs. H. Dentman, Mrs. A. Klemky, Molly Moeller and others. Some of the projects they embarked on were sewing aprons, pot holders and baby clothes. The items were sold and the money used by the group to further their work.

In 1947 a new pastor arrived to serve the various congregations and under the influence of Pastor F. Knebel the group switched their meetings to English language. Meetings continued in the homes each month until 1957 when the Thorsby and Telfordville Ladies Aid Societies donated money to finish a large room in the newly built manse in Thorsby which was owned by the whole Lutheran parish. When it was ready the Thorsby group began to hold their meetings in the manse basement. Members took turns leading the devotional topic each month and the pastor always attended as well as his wife. Pastor Kurt Adelsberger was serving the parish at that time. A practise was observed of each member putting pennies into the Birthday Box that amounted to her annual birthday age.

In 1961 the group joined the Lutheran Church Women of the Lutheran Church of America and became LCW instead of Missionary Societies. The format of the meetings remained the same but a certain amount of the income was sent away to be used by the head office of LCW for overseas mission work and for evangelistic work among the poor in the U.S.A., parts of Canada and in literacy work in the under privileged areas of those countries. Thankoffering boxes were given to members for an annual Thankoffering donation. The money from this fund and the birthday monies were designated for special projects in mission work. Each fall a District Assembly is held in the central area of Alberta with approximately 100 women attending.

The St. Stephen's Church women from Morrowdale joined the Thorsby women in 1964 and later the meetings were changed to be held in the church basement. A variety of devotional topics have been used, some were presented by one or two

members, others by the pastor. In recent years baby mini layettes, quilts, several types of kits for children and used clothing drives have been carried out by the LCW. These items are packed and sent overseas and many hours of volunteer work has been involved with the preparation of the kits and quilts. LCW members were responsible for years for seeing the church was cleaned weekly and once or twice each year they hold a general clean up, doing a very thorough cleaning job.

LCW members serve many lunches and potluck suppers in the church for special meetings. They provide treats for the Summer Vacation Church School pupils, sell lunch at auction sales for members of the congregation, observe Christmas in some special way for their husbands and families. They have held teas for Mothers Day and for senior citizens, sponsored baby showers for members and endeavored in every way to witness for their Lord with good works.

In 1979 an average attendance of 14 meet for the meetings held on the second Tuesday of each month. The executive are, president Mrs. Arnold Scheetz, vice-pres. Mrs. Robert Krueger, secretary Mrs. Art Schmidt and treasurer Mrs. Fred Krueger. Offices are for a 2 year term.

WILLIAM SCHNICK FAMILY

by Gordon Schnick

Bill Schnick took up a family homestead west of Thorsby in 1936 along with his new bride, the former Bertha Bablitz.

They stayed there for 5 years, fighting brush, bad weather, and the aches and pains of homesteading during the tail-end of the 'dirty thirties'. Here their first 2 children were born, Eleanor and Gordon. In 1941 the war was well in progress and recognizing 'the need for bacon', Bill bought the Thorsby feed mill. He ground feed for farmers night and day. Everyone was raising hogs, realizing the first real money farmers had made in a long time. Grinding feed turned out to be a real good business. Feed was ground, not by the hundred-weight or bushel, but by the wagon-box full. Farmers would line up from early morning until late at night. This was also good for the hotel business since farmers had a lot of time to socialize.

As a kid during the forties, I remember Thorsby's annual spring floods. I watched with envy as the older boys commandeered a huge round tub from the curling rink and paddled down water-filled ditches to the CPR station and then proceeded to ferry from the station to mainstreet.

Thorsby was always a busy place. On Saturdays, I can remember walking down a crowded wooden sidewalk and never understanding a word anyone spoke. Everyone was speaking in their native tongues since most of the people were newcomers to the area. In 1943 the feed mill was sold to Ed Lentz and the Schnick family moved to Glen Park for another try at

farming. In the meantime, Bill got interested in the lumber business. So in a year, the family was off to Warburg. Bill started Warburg Lumber Ltd. which is still operated by his sons, Wilfred and Gordon Schnick. There are 5 children in the family - Eleanor Stallknecht of Edmonton, Gordon of Warburg, Wilfred of Warburg, Linda Scheetz of Thorsby, and Carolyn Meyer of Warburg. Bill passed away in 1961. His wife, Bertha, remarried and is presently residing in Camrose.

W. SAUVE FAMILY

by Mrs. Margaret Sauve

The fall of 1963 saw Bill being transferred to Thorsby to take the job of elevator agent for the Alberta Wheat Pool. For myself it wasn't an entirely new district as I had taken my schooling and most of my childhood days were spent south of Thorsby, but for Bill and the family it was a new experience.



Fisherton School in 1936 with Miss Zimmeramn teacher.

One of our family, Marilyn, was now married, so we just had the 2 at home, Irene and Gerald. Irene was in grade 11 and Gerald in grade 8.

Coming into a completely new school district meant many changes in the education programme, so it was quite a challenge for them, but before long they were adjusted, and had made many new friends through school and different organizations they became involved in.

A year later Irene graduated from Thorsby High School and went on to NA.I.T. taking dietetics.

Gerald was active in hockey, football, basketball and also the United Church. He soon found he had a very active life in Thorsby. In grade 10 he was chosen to attend a science seminar at the university in Edmonton, which he found very interesting and useful.

Before Irene graduated, she worked as a part-time phone operator for Alberta Government Telephones. She also taught Sunday school for the United Church. As time passed Bill got busier each year with grain and seed buying and getting involved in Lions Club, on the volunteer fire department, and serving on the church board of the United Church. Busy as Bill was, he always found a few hours to take our son and many more, to hockey and basketball games, etc. Many nights he would go to games and come back to the elevator and do his book work after hours.

For a short while, I worked for Alberta Government Telephones relieving during summer months. After the change to direct dialing, I went to work at Macleods for Walter Wagner where I was employed until we left Thorsby.

With working I found my time limited but managed to help out on the church board, church

choir and helped United Church Women.

By this time Bill's health wasn't very good so he decided he would try to get a smaller grain point so he could carry on to retirement. In the fall of 1968 we left Thorsby.

Our son graduated in June of 1968 and enrolled in gas technology at Northern Alberta Institute of

Technology.

It wasn't a very easy decision to make, whether we would stay in Thorsby or not but Bill's ill health forced us to move.

At the time of writing, Bill and I reside in Spruce Grove.

Marilyn married Clark McNabb and they reside in Colinton, Alberta. They have a girl and boy. Irene married Jim Noseworthy and they reside in Spruce Grove. They have a boy and a girl. Gerald married Evelyn Wild and they reside in Spruce Grove and they have a daughter.

FRED SNIDER FAMILY

related by Fred Snider

Fred, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Snider, grew up in the Fruitland district and attended



Fred Snider family group. Back row: Dean, Daryl. Front row: Neil, Fred, Shirley and Lynne.



Fred Snider holding one of their sons in front of his truck.

school there. After finishing school he helped with the work on the farm and held a job with the County of Leduc working on road maintenance. About 1948, he began working full time for the County.

In 1954, he moved into the village of Thorsby and in the same year married Shirley Sivertson. She was the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sivertson who were living at Ayon Moor.

Fred and Shirley lived in a little home on 53rd street and it was there the Fred Snider family began. The children, Daryl, Dean, Neil and Lynne all attended Thorsby schools.

In Dec. of 1971, the family were happy to be able to move into their brand new home a few blocks away on 54th avenue.

Fred had started his own trucking business in 1955 and operated it for 5 years. After selling his trucking business he worked for the Dept. of Highways for 3 years and then returned to truck driving. This time he hauled gravel instead of livestock and continued with that occupation for 10 years.

In 1973, he bought his own grader and is presently employed in oil field maintenance with an oil Co.

Daryl graduated from Thorsby High School and went on to attend Mount Royal College in Calgary for 2 years. He then entered the University of Alberta taking education and majored in French. He expects to receive his degree at the Spring Convocation of 1979.

Daryl and Kathy Webber of Lacombe were married in 1977. Kathy teaches kindergarten in Spruce Grove.

Dean graduated from Thorsby High School and is employed with McGregor Co. as a linesman in

southern Alberta.

Neil turned 16 on Jan. 26, 1979 and is taking grade 10. Lynne is 12 and in grade 6.

ROY SPARKS FAMILY HISTORY

Related by Gladys Sparks

In the early afternoon on Dec. 14, 1948, Roy Gordon Sparks, his wife Gladys and children Warren and Elaine arrived in the village of Thorsby, Alta. Roy had applied for and received the position of C.P.R. Station Agent there. There were no houses to rent so they stayed at the Thorsby Hotel for a few months and later were able to purchase a home.

On January 1, 1950, Roy's application to be Secretary-Treasurer of the village was accepted and he took over this position on February 1, 1950, at a salary of \$500.00 per annum. Roy held this position until June, 1957, when he resigned as he was leaving Thorsby. His salary by this time had been increased to \$1800.00 per annum. Roy had the honor of being the first Secretary-Treasurer of the Village of Thorsby.

He was a charter member of the Thorsby Lions Club and was their first President. Both Roy and his wife were members of the Thorsby Curling Club.

Roy headed a delegation to the government in Edmonton, to get a loan at a reduced rate, to put a water and sewage system in the village, and was successful in receiving the loan. Roy also arranged passage for many people who wanted to bring relatives from Europe to Canada.

He was a member of the United Church, and his wife was a member also and took her turn as President of the Ladies Aid.

Both children attended High School, and upon leaving school were employed at the Thorsby Bank of Montreal. Warren played baseball and hockey for Thorsby and is still with the B. of M. as a manager. Elaine was married in the Thorsby United Church in Aug., 1953, and is presently employed as a Certified Dental Assistant in Edmonton.

Upon leaving Thorsby in 1957, Roy went to Suffield, Alta. and then to Fort Saskatchewan, Alta. where he resided for 13 years. Roy passed away on March 13, 1975, at Fort Saskatchewan. His wife still resides there and has just retired from her position as a Correction Officer.

SENETCHKO — NICK AND FRANCES

by Frances Senetchko

Nick was born in 1897 in Jaraslow, Galicia and immigrated to Canada with his parents Katherine and Alex Senetchko in 1905.

I, Frances Faraschuk Senetchko, was born in the Thorsby district in 1907.

In 1927 Nick and I were married. In 1929 with our son Reginald Nicholas, born in 1928, we settled in Thorsby. We opened a business — Canada Grocery, O.K. Lunch, Ice Cream Parlor and Confectionery.

With the railway going through, the hamlet was building up very fast. A friendly and helpful spirit prevailed in the new settlement.



O.K. Lunch building owned by Nick & Frances Senetchko in Thorsby in

Nick and I were active in all community activities, and were members in social, church, sports, and business affairs. Nick built many of the early establishments and homes in Thorsby.

In 1935 the O.K. Lunch was closed and Nick opened a Cockshutt farm machinery and Waterloo

Threshers agency.

Nick and I were blessed with 3 more children in Thorsby—in 1933 a son Wilfred Allan; in 1935 a son Theodore Michael; and in 1937 a daughter Geraldine Mae. Our children were active in social, sports (mainly hockey), and musical life in Thorsby. Wilfred journeyed to Edmonton each Saturday for violin lessons, while Ted and Geraldine studied piano with Edythe Rolston.

From 1948-1953 Wilfred and Ted were members of the Thorsby Orchestra, giving music to many country and town events and wedding dances. Wilfred was also a member of the Thorsby Brass Band. Geraldine continued to pursue her piano studies in Leduc, Edmonton, and then in Toronto at the Royal

Conservatory of Music.

In 1951 Reg left Thorsby for the north country with a seismograph company that tested for oil in areas from the Arctic Circle to midwest, U.S.A.



Senetchko family, 1944. Back row: L. to R. Nick, Reg. Frances. Front row: Wilfred, Geraldine & Ted.

Wilf left for Grand Prairie to take a position as radio announcer with Radio Station C.F.G.P. Wilf's next move was to C.F.C.W. Camrose and CH.E.D. Edmonton.

Ted left for Carstairs to train as a mechanic's

apprentice.

In 1954 Nick, Geraldine and I moved to Edmonton. Nick passed away in 1974. I still reside in Edmonton.

Reg, his wife Joyce, and 2 children Valerie and David reside in Edmonton where Reg is employed by

the city

Wilf and his wife Sharel and their 3 sons Douglas, Gordon, and Jeffrey reside in Calgary. Wilf is still involved with radio work, broadcasting a classical program on Calgary Radio Station C.H.Q.R.

Ted with wife Donna and 3 children Crystal, Gary, and Lorelei also live in Calgary. Ted owns his own trucking company contracting with larger firms.

Geraldine with her husband Donald Haythorne and 2 daughters Leanna and Rayna live near Sherwood Park. Geraldine teaches music at Alberta College and is a Vice-President of Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association.

DOROTHY AND HENRY SCHMOLKE

In June of 1953 we arrived from Germany by boat to Quebec. From there we took a train to Edmonton and went to the immigration office to look for work. Total strangers to us at that time, Helene and Frank Vangyn, were looking for help at their restaurant. They took us to Mulhurst where I worked as a kitchen helper and Henry worked on construction. We stayed at Mulhurst till 1954 when we came to Thorsby.

Henry started at Hoffman's Hardware and I opened my hairdressing business. Through visiting a friend, Olga Knull, I obtained my first hairdryer for \$25.00 and set my prices at 75¢ for a haircut, and



L. to R. Irvin, Dorothy, Henry and Harry Schmolke

\$3.50 for a perm. After 2 years I bought 3 dryers but did not have water (or sewer) for 8 years. One of my first customers was Phyllis Madiuk and since then I have had many people from all around the country, and a lot of happy times.

In 1958, we started building our present home. We bought the lot from John Rolston and at that time we looked out on bush to the west. I then moved my shop to the house and have been here ever since.

We have 2 children. Harry is the oldest and was born Mar. 20, 1954. He is employed with the R.C.M.P. in North Vancouver, B.C. Erwin, born Feb. 28, 1957, is presently working as a driller with Regent Drilling.

During the years Henry has built many homes in Thorsby and district, and has driven the school bus in the Calmar area for 11 years. I am still in business and this April will celebrate 25 years of hairdressing in Thorsby.

THORSBY AGENCIES LTD.

Thorsby Agencies, as it was first known, was started in 1929 by William Armstrong. At that time the office was a lean-to attached to a Chinese restaurant, on the main street in Thorsby. Mr. Armstrong ran the business until 1949, when he sold out to the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator Agent, Dan C. MacRae. Mr. MacRae, in a couple of years, then proceeded to move the office to larger quarters and at



Don in his office with Steve Klimosko.



Sears order office on left of Thorsby Agencies on Hankin Street in 1978.

that time moved into the then-renovated restaurant. The building was moved approximately 10 feet south towards the Drug Store and a northerly portion of the lot was sold to John Bilar, who enlarged his garage.

Dan was later joined in businesss by his son, Donald and the business was later incorporated, in April 1957, to become Thorsby Agencies Ltd. The business has been operated by Don, since the death of his father in Feb. 1972.

Don would like to take this opportunity to express his appreciation for the excellent and efficient secretaries that have worked for the Agency, with himself and his father over the past years.

THORSBY HOTEL

By John Udchitz

In August 1929 Mr. August Ruff acquired a job with his team of buckskin horses and a slip to dig a basement that initiated the construction of the Thorsby Hotel. The project was supervised by his small son Norman who supplied the drinking water for his labouring father.

The original building constructed with native lumber and help from Mr. Korpan reached the outrageous cost of \$4,800 which was above the original estimate by \$1300.

The hotel was built at a very strategic location namely at the "end of steel". The first purchaser of the hotel was Ed Kelly, who paid an unheard of price of \$8,000.

In 1940 Andrew Kinasewich purchased the hotel for \$12,000 which he operated with his sons until about 1953. The hotel consisted of 13 tables, and beer sold at 10¢ a glass.

The hotel is one of the few remaining original buildings in the town of Thorsby, and has a very colorful history. The hotel was situated across the street from the local dance hall and right next door to John Rolston's Pioneer Store and Post Office. Every



Early days of Thorsby Hotel.



Thorsby Hotel, 1938, when operated by the Kinasewich family.

Saturday its hitching rails were adorned with many teams and buggies not to mention the occasional model T Ford or the luxurious "28" models.

It played a very important role in society. Every Saturday the family came to town. While the local stores occupied the ladies time with their shopping (open until midnight) the children went to the theatre while the men patronized the bar where all farming, political and community problems were discussed.

While the hotel's restaurant only catered to the guests during meal hours, Mrs. Forshner opened the first restaurant to meet the needs of the public.

Inflation and progress reared its ugly head and in 1954 Walter Melnyk and O. Lukianchuk purchased the hotel for \$60,000. With the population growth they had to enlarge the hotel's capacity.

They operated it for about 16 years and added a second addition to the capacity it is now. While owners came and went Ed Harrish managed the hotel for 19

The next owner was Bill Karnebogen and he sold it after a short time to John Beilney who operated it for 3 years and then sold it to Samuel and Gertrude Comm. After about a year and a half they sold it to Joel Saga Investments Ltd. who are the present owners.

The hotel has 14 rooms, a coffee shop and the bar has been enlarged to accommodate about 50 tables.

Truly the Thorsby Hotel is a monument to the changing needs and growth of our community.

MATERNITY WARD THORSBY HOSPITAL 1941

Written by Anna Wickstrom

It was my privilege to spend 2 weeks in the maternity ward of the Thorsby Hospital in the winter of 1941, which was to be the last year of its existence.

My husband and I arrived at the hospital, which was in the Burgess house, a mile north of Thorsby, at about 4 A.M. on Feb. 26. After rousing Mrs. Burgess, the owner, and making the necessary arrangements, my husband went home.

Mrs. Burgess led me through a corridor to the case room, where she introduced me to Mrs. Secrest, the



Mrs. Burgess in front of the hospital she founded near Thorsby.

lady who looked after the patients. My clothes were exchanged for a white gown, and I was strapped onto the delivery table. From then on, I relieved my feelings periodically, by viciously pounding the wall next to me.

Why didn't Dr. Hankin hurry? When we'd called at his residence on our way, he had told us that he'd be along "later". As I'd had no previous experience with childbirth, I didn't realize that it might take a little time. Mrs. Secrest assured me that when the doctor was needed, she'd send someone down to tell him. There was no telephone in the building then, so it was necessary for a messenger to go downtown on a bicycle, on horseback or on foot.

Mrs. Burgess gave me chloroform. After what seemed to be ages later, I became dimly aware that the figure bending over me was no longer that of Mrs. Burgess, but Dr. Hankin himself, stripped to the waist. At last I heard a cry, and the doctor said, "It's a boy". I was very pleased.

When I was ready to leave the case room, Dr. Hankin bent forward at the waist, at right angles to his legs, and with Mrs. Secrest's help, I found myself lying face-up on his back. Much to my surprise, he then carried me in this fashion into the next room where he gently rolled me onto a bed.

I don't know how long I lay there in a groggy state, but when my vision cleared, I could see that I was the only patient in that room, although there were 2 empty beds. In one corner stood a small stove with a pile of wood beside it. It had been extremely cold outdoors early that morning, but it was snug and warm in there. There was a radio on a desk beside the north window. My bed was next to a partition that reached partway to a stuccoed ceiling. There was a door in this partition, but I did not know where it led, until I heard voices on the other side and learned that two acquaintances of mine were maternity patients in the bedroom next to mine. We were soon chatting back and forth.

I was eager to see our new son, and when they finally brought him in, I thought he was perfect. That afternoon, my husband and his mother came to see the new member of the family. They must have expected to see a baby giant because they thought he was "awfully small", even though he weighted a healthy 8 lb. 6 oz.

That evening, a friendly young lady named Hilda Massner, came in with supper. She said that her job



Thorsby Hospital 1941. Allan Burgess and pet dog in front of hospital.

was to cook, wash clothes, and help wait on patients. As there were also men patients on the second floor, she was kept very busy.

After supper the two Burgess sons came in with armfuls of wood, a chore to be repeated every evening.

Having an inquisitive nature, I began to wonder what it was like on the other side of that partition. When there was no-one around, I stood up on the bed and startled my two friends by peering down at them. There really wasn't much to see after all — just the two occupied beds with a small table between, and another door leading into a dark passage.

At last, one of the women informed me that I wasn't supposed to be standing. Apparently the medical profession at that time believed that after having a baby, a woman must lie quietly in bed, scarcely lifting a finger, for 14 days. We were not allowed to walk to the bathroom, our meals were served in bed and Mrs. Secrest bathed each of us daily. Although this procedure did give some women a much needed-rest, the enforced inactivity usually resulted in a pronounced weakness in the patient when she arrived home to resume her duties as housewife.

My bed was cranked up at the head at such a steep angle that I was constantly experiencing a sliding-down sensation, relieved only when it was screwed down long enough for my bath or for the bed to be made.

Then too, there was the firm belief that a dose of castor oil must be administered to a maternity patient on the third day after delivery.

One afternoon there was a new patient in the delivery room. When the ordeal was over, she became my room-mate.

We never lacked for entertainment. Visitors came with news of the outside world. The radio provided us with "The Right to Happiness", "The Road of Life", "Romance of Helen Trent", "Ma Perkins", and other stories. Then of course the patients themselves swapped case histories that proved to be even more sensational than the soap operas.

On the 15th morning they brought back my clothes, dressed our son in all his new finery, and we were ready to to. In my opinion there is nothing in life equal to the joy of bringing home a new baby!

There was no government allowance for maternity cases, and no Alberta Health Plan in 1941, but the bill for pre-natal care, delivery, board and nursing in the hospital for 2 weeks, plus post-natal care, amounted to only \$30.00.

In June of that year, I visited a friend in the Thorsby Hospital. I was amazed at the improvements made there in such a short time. There was a new maternity wing with new beds and other equipment. The old well with the rust problem was no longer in use. Water was now hauled from the cheese factory, dumped into a big tank in the basement and hooked to a pressure system so that there was clear running water in the kitchen. A telephone had also been installed.

At the end of the year I was sorry to learn that the hospital was discontinued after Dr. Hankin's enlistment in the Medical Corps.

THORSBY AUCTION MART

Owner & Manager - Dave Steinke

The Thorsby Auction Mart, built by Les Bruce in 1962, and bought by Dave Steinke in 1963, gives part-time employment to many people and brings a great deal of business to the village of Thorsby. The enterprise has proved to be an outstanding success. The attendance of buyers and sellers at the sales has increased steadily. Some sales, involving as high as 1500 head of cattle and a large number of hogs, have lasted until 4 A.M.



Dave Steinke at his desk - Thorsby Auction Mart.

Dave Steinke grew up on a grain and cattle farm in the West Union district near Leduc. The roads then were in poor condition and there was very little loading equipment available. All his deals were in cash.

In 1938 he married Beatrice Wetter, and the couple made their home in Leduc. In 1947 Dave bought 14 quarters of land south of Wizard Lake where he kept cattle. All this time he bought and sold cattle, thus gaining a wealth of experience useful in the Auction Mart. In 1964, Dave and Beatrice moved from Leduc to their ranch south of Wizard Lake where they built a new house.

At first, sale day at the Mart was Thursday, from 11 A.M. until everything was sold. The day has since been

changed to Monday.

Auctioneers hired through the years were: Allan Bruce, Alf Befus, Don Nelson, Alvy Borgstrom, Walter Rinsky, Fred Brown, Gilby Havanka, Don Melin and Tom Jevne (present auctioneer).

A clerk writes down the number of animals, the color, kind, price and the buyer's name. Those who have served as clerks are: George Zingle, Lumir Mottl, Jean Goin, Barbara Senio and Karen Klatt. Karen also does the bookkeeping. She has been there for close to 15 years.

Sophia Maduik worked in the office one year for Les Bruce and nearly 15 years for Dave; Shirley Wickstrom for 11 years. They are assisted by Jean Peterson and Karen Harden.

Another long-time employee was Fred Krueger who booked, penned and weighed cattle. Melvin Pydde and Ken Green are ring men and those in the barn are Dale Knull (cutting man), Keith Green, Douglas Halladay, Dave Erickson, Darcy Dennis, Eugene Mantei, Dorothy Fald and Pat Verlinde (scale man).

All cattle going through the mart have to be government inspected for brands. The brand inspector is Fred Thompson. Dr. Goetzinger, the local veterinarian, checks all cattle for disease.



In the Ring - Thorsby Auction Mart. Karen Klatt, Clerk, Tom Jevne, Auctioneer, & Dave Steinke, Owner.

At a regular sale, miscellaneous goods are sold first and then the hogs and cattle.

A special sale is sometimes held, usually on a Wednesday night. It may be an antique; furniture; bull; or horse sale. Horse sales are so popular that it is impossible to seat everyone.

New cattle pens and a hog barn have been built. In the main building there is a cafe. This was first managed by Emily Sharko and later by Eleanor Melin. Dorothy Erickson is now in charge with Lena Lichon and Judy Bentley assisting. Coffee, hamburgers, potato chips, sandwiches and pie are served during the sale. In the fall, hot meals are prepared and served at suppertime.

Dave's latest venture, the hog assembly, is now operating just east of the Auction Mart, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. It is known as "Thorsby Stockyards".

THORSBY CHEESE FACTORY

by M.J. Boddy (Bud)

The cheese factory was built by Mr. C.W. Taylor of Wetaskiwin in 1931. I started to work part-time late in 1931 for \$20.00 a month. The first cheese maker was Peter Braglin and he taught me how to make cheese. I worked full time in 1932 for approximately \$35.00 a month.

We started at 7 a.m. and fired up the boiler. We had to turn all the cheese in storage before starting the day's work. Many school children brought the milk in on their way to school, which meant you had to lift the cans out of the sleigh or buggy, dump and weigh the milk, taste a sample and preserve a sample for the weekly test, write out a receipt and return the can to the rig.

After the last delivery, hopefully at 10 a.m., we started to work making cheese. This process took from 6 to 8 hours from then on.

The cheese factory was bought by the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool about 1934. Peter Braglin left in the spring of 1936, so the N.A.D.P. brought Art Dugeon from Bellville, Ont. to be cheese maker. He didn't have a Steam Engineer's license for Alberta, so I had to sit for the exam and obtained a temporary license for a year. I also had to obtain a milk and cream



Old Thorsby Cheese Factory. Spring meeting.



Inside the Old Thorsby Cheese Factory - M.J. "Bud" Boddy (left) & Art Dugeon.

tester's license. Art left in the fall of 1936 and I was promoted to manager (on probation). After all, I had just turned 19.

During my term as manager, we also had a side line job of buying eggs and poultry. Eggs were 5¢ a dozen and I'll always remember buying a live goose from a farmer at 10¢ a lb. The goose weighed 6 lbs. and I paid him 60¢. We both agreed it was hardly worth the effort.

We paid 80¢ per 100 lbs. for 3.8% butter fat content milk with 2¢ per 100 lbs. for each point above 3.8 or 2¢ less per 100 lbs. for each point less than 3.8. 80¢ per 100 is 8¢ per gallon.

We sold cheese to the public for 16¢ alb. We were also famous for our raw curd. People would just "happen to drop in" about 4:30 p.m. to see if the curd was salted and have a handful. People who worked with me were; Ron Delemater, my brother Walt Boddy, Al Downey, Carl Hughes, and Homer Delemater (Ron's dad). They were paid the handsome sum of \$2.00 per day. After all we only worked from 10 to 12 hours per day.



R. to L. David Ross unloading milk cans. Delivering milk to the N.A.D.P. in 1966, first cans unloaded after plant was remodeled. Sam Boychuk.

I'll always remember Mr. Christenson, the manager of the N.A.D.P., driving out in his brand new Packard (it was some car in 1936) to tell me about the Social Credit Government's passing of a Minimum Wage Law. For casual help, you had to employ them for a minimum of 4 hours, and pay them 35¢ an hour.

In the spring of 1938, I contracted pneumonia for the fourth time and on doctor's advice I retired from the cheese business at the grand old age of 21.

After 40 years I cannot remember the names of all the milk shippers, the ones I do remember are; the Collinsons, Smiths, Jablonskis, Dentmans, Klemkys,



The old Thorsby Cheese Factory -C.W. Taylor (left) & Peter Braglin.



Sam Boychuk working in cheese factory.

Moellers, Diericks, Steins, Strautmans, Kisons, P.B. Callaways, Brods, Mediskeys and J.M. Callaways. My apologies to the many that I have omitted.

Remember when the farmer would skim a bit of cream off the top of his milk for his porridge; or the cow would step in the milk pail, but that was O.K. because it was just going to the cheese factory anyway?

After my retirement from the cheese industry I moved to Edmonton and joined Marshall Wells Company. I have been with them over 40 years now.

THORSBY SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

A history as related by John Bilar.

In August of 1970 several Thorsby business men asked the Thorsby Rec. Board to call a meeting of the senior citizens for the purpose of organizing their activities. The meeting was held in the elementary school auditorium with about 30 people attending. Charles Ladd was elected president and the secretary-treasurer's office was filled by John Bilar. Dan MacRae arranged for the club to rent the original old school building for \$1.00 a year from the school board. The first meeting of the newly organized club was August 28, 1970. Ed Bowering vice-president and a board of directors was named. John Rolston made a motion to give the club the name of Thorsby Senior Citizens Club, seconded by Nick Switlyk. Carried. It was decided to charge a membership fee of \$1.00 a year. A committee of 3 were elected caretakers. They were Rudolph Stein, Nick Nazar and Foster Sutherland. Business meetings would be held the last Wednesday of each month.

It was moved by Henry Evanson and seconded by R. Stein to hold bingo games every week. Callers were to be Nick Nazar and R. Stein, and John Bilar would be in charge of finance.

That year Nick Nazar and Dan MacRae collected about \$900.00 from business men, farmers and other individuals. Donations were received also from other organizations and from some churches.

From the beginning of the club some of the

members worked very faithfully, donating free labor. Two of them, Stein and Ladd were known as "Fix-'em" and "Go-for."

Charles Ladd resigned as president after 4 years because of hearing problems and Phil Eyre was elected in his place. Two years after the club was incorporated under the Societies' Act on Dec. 22, 1970, it purchased the old school from the school division. The building and the land around it cost one dollar.

Original members were; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ladd, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Faraschuk, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Richards, John Rolston, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bowering, Jim Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Chrunik, Mr. and Mrs. R. Becker, John Polok, Mr. and Mrs. John Hier, John Klimosko, Frank Dedio, Mr. and Mrs. John Bilar, Peter Bawol, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Perley, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Stein, Mr. and Mrs. Foster Sutherland, Mrs. Julia Maryka, Henry Evanson, Mrs. Louise Siedel, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Forster, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Switlyk, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Nazar, Gus Adamiets, Mike Babiak Sr., Mr. and Mrs. John Rovinsky Sr. Rienhold Bauman. Eliza Roseberg, Augusta Flater, John Steidle, Alf Sulx, Steve Ference, Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Kirchner, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Alton, Manuel Forster, A. Burns, John Bauman, Dan Popik, George Supryk, Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Gunsch, Dan Wurban. Mrs. E. Naprawa, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Faraschuk, William Rasch, Mrs. S. Krukowski, Mr. and Mrs. Dan MacRae, Carl Alenius, Mrs. Laura Smith, William Bauman, Mr. and Mrs. William Moeller, Mike Pasut, Fjaller Johnson, Albin Markstedt, John Terlesky, Mary Cygan, Albert Sonnenberg, Andy Knudsen, Jessie Marcino, John Powlik, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Killaly, Andrew Klemko, Elizabeth Johnson, Sam Postnikoff, William Krueger, and E.H. Anderson.

From it's beginning some of the lady members worked very hard to achieve its' success until younger women took over. Mrs. Stein and Mrs. Naprawa were very active in the club.

Besides the successful bingos, the club has held



Regular Thursday evening bingo at the Drop-In-Centre in Thorsby.

pot-luck suppers to observe Christmas and Thanksgiving. Various other organizations have entertained members with teas, programs and the Buford 4-H club held plant and bake sales there and donated the proceeds to it.

With financial grants from the Government an extension was added to give almost twice as much space. The exterior of the building was finished with stucco. A new roof was put on, the basement repaired and new windows were installed. A kitchen was built in the new extension with cupboards, a new stove and fridge. Equipment and dishes for 80 people were bought. New linoleum was laid on the floors and at least 125 new stacking chairs were purchased.

The club has spent over \$30,000.00 on improvements. They have landscaped the grounds and planted 50 spruce trees. Windows have drapes, the walls are freshly painted and flowers bloom in summer in planters at the front of the building.

Card parties were instituted about 1974 with Ruth Gunsch and Ted Meyer on a committee. Whist parties were held every Tuesday night and in 1977 cribbage games were initiated. Mike Mellick looked after these which were held Friday evenings. During the summer months these activities are discontinued.

The members enjoy coffee twice daily with various members responsible for the coffee each week. Some of the women members organized Sunday night bingos in 1978, and these were very successful.

The members are active in other forms of entertainment and have enjoyed many trips. The Alberta Game Farm, Moscow Circus, and in October 1978 a bus load of 33 attended the Commonwealth City Singers presentation of the Festival of Song and



Senior Citizens' float in Thorsby Parade 1976.

Sound in the Jubilee Auditorium. Each summer a picnic is planned and the seniors travel to various points outside of Thorsby for it.

The club has made it's centre available for the use

of church groups and Brownies. The Health Unit holds Diabetic Clinics in it and The Historical Society of Thorsby and District were given free use of it.

Two anniversary Open Houses were held in it and a farewell reception was held for the Lau family when Dr. Lau moved to Leduc from Thorsby a few years ago.

At the present time (1978) the oldest members are Mr. and Mrs. Mike Paholka. A. Besler is president and Nick Zingle is sec.-treas.

A framed plaque, made by the late Mr. Bronek Zolkiewski of Thorsby, hangs on one wall. It bears the names of departed members.

The centre provides a pleasant place for its members to relax in and enjoy a chat with friends.

THORSBY ELECTRIC

By S.D. Tomaszeski

Doug Milner and his wife, Effie, began operating an electrical contracting business in Calmar in 1946 under the name of Calmar Electric. The business was operated from their house. In 1947 they hired their first apprentice, which was myself (S.D. Tomaszeski). The wage I received was 75¢ per hour. One year later they hired another apprentice, Melvin Metke. At that time there was no power in the rural areas other than those who had their own power plants. After 4 years in Calmar, Mr. Milner decided to make a move elsewhere, so he thought he would try Thorsby. On April 25, 1950 he received authorization from the village of Thorsby to move his business there. We made the move on July 1, 1950. The first shop was opened in the newly built Thorsby Theatre. After a couple of years there, we moved into the Hale building, where Mr. Hale operated a machinery



Thorsby Electric with proprietor Stan Tomaszewski in front of the old store on 50 Ave.

agency selling Oliver and Minneapolis Moline machinery. We shared the building and sold machinery parts for Mr. Hale, also operating the gas pumps.



Thorsby Electric truck in 1955.



Thorsby Electric in 1979

In 1952 I received my journeyman's certificate after attending school at Calgary's Canadian Vocational School. N.A.I.T. at that time did not exist. As soon as I received my certificate I bought one half share of the business, thus starting a partnership with Mr. Milner. We worked together for several years until Mr. Milner decided to move back to Edmonton. He went back to his war time job with North West Industries. I carried on the partnership until July, 1959 when I purchased Mr. Milner's share in the business, thus dissolving the partnership. The Hale building was sold to John Kolesar so we continued to share the building with the new owners for a few years. When Arthur Harrish decided to close his Massey-Ferguson Agency, we purchased the building then, and operated from there until 1973, when we purchased the Faraschuk building. In April of 1973 we

moved to this building, keeping the old building as a warehouse. The new building is used as an appliance store and electrical contracting.

At the present time we have 4 journeyman electricians and 1 apprentice, with Mrs. Sophia Pruneau as clerk and bookkeeper. Mrs. Pruneau joined us in 1963, thus completing 15 years with us this year (1978).

Some of our apprentices who went on to get their journeyman certificates were: Melvin Metke, Bert Sparrow, Harry Pichonsky, Eugene Fedor, Les Bacsik, Albert Heidt, Orest Senio, Ken Dublanko, and Julian Tomaszeski. Pat Krawiec will be entering his third year at N.A.I.T. this year.

THORSBY WELDERS

This small town shop started when 3 young men with lots of courage and no money decided to get started in a business of their own after the war. Service men were supposedly the heroes of the day, and could get help to start businesses with no trouble at all, but it was soon discovered that farmers and fishermen got that help. No bank would give a loan to someone without collateral, and yet how could these men, fresh from fighting a war, (plus the big depressions before that) hope to have any sort of collateral. Finally, by hook and by crook, and some loans from trusting finance companies, the 3 men made a start in the business world.

The men in this business venture were: Art Creamer, a mechanic; Phillip Pickard, a machinist; and Ray Anderson, a welder. Art came to Thorsby with his wife, Florence, and small son, Dwight. Phil was single, and Ray came with his wife, Betty. The men were not partners as such, but rather rented the same shop in the back of Clee Hale's Minneapolis-Moline Shop.

Art stayed only about a year, as there wasn't much work, for there weren't many cars and tractors as yet. Farms were still small and a lot of land had not yet been cleared.

Phil had 2 beautiful lathes. One was a big 10-foot machine and the other a 6-foot one. This was also machinery which should have been in a city where it could be used to make a good living. So, Phil decided to go to Yellowknife where he was a machinist for a gold mine.

Welding, on the other hand, was just starting to come into its own. People were beginning to realize that welding things together was better than bolting

them, so Ray decided to stay in Thorsby.

After a few years of renting, Ray bought the lot next door to Hale's building. At that time Ray had an apprentice with him, who besides showing fine skill as a welder, was a very capable carpenter. This fellow was Eddie Mattock. The shop was a 28 by 60 foot building with 6 inch walls filled with shavings. Gus Turnquist



Interior of Ray Anderson's Welding shop in 1946, located in rear of C.M. Hale's Minneapolis-Moline Agency buildig. L. to R. Vern Dahms, Art Creamer and Ray Anderson.

built the strong rafters, and Ray, Betty, Eddie and his wife, Margaret, spent their evenings, Sundays and holidays pounding nails to complete the building.

Work in the shop consisted mainly of repairing brush cutters and cats in the early years. Ray later did some oil field welding, plus a lot of farm work which ranged from patching scoop shovels and hard-facing plow shares, to repairing big machinery.

In the meantime, Ray was trying to design a coal stock tank water heater for farmers. He finally received his patent #723939, and later added propane and natural gas heaters to his manufacturing line. These heaters have sold across Canada, and even the camels at Al Oeming's Game Farm have benefitted from the "Anderson Stock Tank Heater". For many years, Betty was also instrumental in their construction, for, aside from the trip-hammer and the welder, she could operate any machine in the shop.

Shortly after the move into the new shop, a coal forge was added. Mr. Muench was hired to do the blacksmith work such as plow shares, bending iron, and forged welding. He stayed for 7 years, and then Ray took over the blacksmithing duties, as well as his regular welding chores. He tore down the coal forge, and added a gasfired one. Blacksmithing has become somewhat of a lost art, and, even though there are a lot of throw-away shares now, Ray still sharpens and hard faces a fair number. Plowshares are brought to him from all over Alberta, as small-town blacksmiths in other areas are slowly lost to history.

Welding has changed a lot over the years. Acetylene welding was done with oxygen, and acetylene was made with carbide and water in a generator. The government now offers short courses in welding to farmers, so they now do a lot of repair work themselves. But Ray still finds himself quite busy, and many farmers have been saved a lot of time and trouble during harvest time when Ray has fixed or devised a replacement for parts of machinery that have broken down.

STAN H. TOMASZEWSKI FAMILY

by Stan

I was born on a farm S.W. 14-49-2 W5 in the Sunnybrook area, the thirteenth and youngest of the family of Sebastian and Mary Tomaszewski. I attended Falconer School, which was later renamed Sunnybrook School. Here I completed grades 1 to 9. This was during the depression years, which, with a large family such as ours, required a great deal of sacrificing. We walked a distance of 3 miles through blizzards, floods, rain, or whatever. We missed very few days of school. The road was just a bush trail and during the spring thaw, the 3 miles sometimes stretched out to more like 5 or 6 if we wanted to keep our feet dry; otherwise, we marched through water and sloshed the rest of the way, emptying our boots before we entered the school. By class dismissal our feet were dry.

During the winter blizzards, frozen toes and noses were common. I completed my high school education at Thorsby and Calmar.

My first job was clerking for William Borgstede, replacing my brother Michael, who at that time was called to the armed forces. Later, when he returned, I left the store and returned to the farm.

In 1948 I found employment at Hoffman's Hardware at Thorsby, where I worked for 4 years. Later I transferred to Thorsby Electric where I worked for 7 more years.



Front of Thorsby Post Office 1978.

In 1959, upon the retirement of Mr. John Rolston as postmaster at Thorsby, I applied for that position. On May 14, 1959 Mr. Speers, the area superintendent, swore me in and informed me that as Of May 15, 1959 I was to be the new postmaster of Thorsby. I was to be in charge of all mails, financial transactions, etc. coming in and out of the Thorsby Post Office. In addition, I'd be the supervising postmaster of 8 smaller offices in my area. There I was, green as grass, with all this responsibility thrust upon me. However, with the help of my assistants, I soon learned the procedures of operating a post office, where I am still employed at the time of this writing.



Mr. Stanley Tomaszewski, who replaced J. Rolston as postmaster upon his retirement.

About that time of my life, I had been doing some serious future planning. This was also the year I got married to Jennie Yurkowski, a young school teacher from Hilliard. Alberta who had come to teach at Thorsby 4 years earlier. We lived in a small house, in the southeast section of Thorsby, which I had purchased a few years earlier. After our first son, Philip, was born, we realized that we needed more living space so we pooled our resources and built a new home, where we presently reside. Since then, 3 more boys (Kevin, Paul and Derek) were born to us. At present they are all attending school here in Thorsby. Philip is in grade 12 this year. In his pre-teens and early teens he was active in Cubs, Cadets, hockey and also was a member of the Thorsby-Warburg Bearcat Bantam football team for 2 years. In his later teens his interests changed to the outdoors. He loves fishing, camping and hunting. After graduation he is looking forward to going into Forestry, In addition, Philip has taken music lessons in accordian and bass guitar.

Kevin, who is in grade 10, has taken music lessons in piano, saxophone, and guitar. In his pre-teens, Kevin also was active in Cubs and Hockey. At present his future is undecided, possibly a veterinarian or animal trainer judging by the great amount of time he spends with the 2 white mice he owns, Minnie and Juniper. Luckily he chose 2 of the same sex, otherwise he would be blessed with a colony of white mice.

Paul, now in grade 7, is the farmer of the family. He loves to work with our garden tractor. In the future, he is really looking forward to taking over the operation of our farm. Paul has made many bicycle trips to our farm to help his uncle, who lives on the adjacent quarter section. Musically, Paul plays the piano and his latest investment is a violin, but, as yet, he has not found anyone to give him music lessons. He played hockey. Paul enjoys baseball, football, curling and worked extremely hard in physical fitness in the upper elementary grades, thus winning the award of excellence for 2 consecutive years.

Derek, who is in the third grade, has never been afraid of getting lost in a crowd. His familiar "Magpie' squawk" sound could not be duplicated by anyone and we readily knew where he was. Also his imitation of a police siren has deceived many a neighbor. With the 3 older brothers all involved in music, Derek has no desire to be a listener only. This year he decided to join them, by investing in a set of drums. He is now taking drumming lessons.

Jennie has never returned to the classroom, as raising a family of 4 active boys is a full time job in itself. With the present high cost of living, long hours are spent in gardening, canning, cooking, mending, etc. This, in addition to supervising homework assignments, music practices, reading time with Derek, preparing and teaching catechism, and at times, helping the church ladies' group with some projects, leaves little time for much else.

As a break from work, some of our leisure time is

spent outdoors. We all enjoy camping, fishing, hunting, or even just a drive in the country on a Sunday afternoon. We like living in Thorsby and look forward to making this place our home for many more years.

As for the boys, I suppose, like with all other young people the time will come for them, as they mature, to pull up stakes and look for greener pastures. I do wish that they will, however, have many memories of their younger days spent here at Thorsby.

THORSBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

written by Beatrice Perley

Long ago when the hamlet of Thorsby was very new, some people thought reading very important. Therefore, the Ladies Aid Society formed a small reading club where books were bought and loaned to anyone who wanted to read them for 10¢ each. In this way about 25 books were collected and eventually were stored in the minister's office in the United Church. In time the office was moved to John Rolston's building on Main Street which Walter Perley shared with the United Church minister and the Mutual Telephone Co.

In February, 1965, a lending library was opened, sponsored and operated by the United Church Women. It had the 25 books plus 15 from Mrs. LaRose's library and donations from members and friends to bring up a total of 200 books. Books were also obtained from the Extension Library, \$5.00 for a box of 30, which could be kept for three months.

Many times over the years, the possibility of a community library was discussed, and in January 1967, a meeting was held, with representatives from five organizations present. All favored the establishment of a library and promised support. In October of that year a meeting was held with E.T. Wiltshire, Supervisor of Libraries for Alberta present to speak.

Howard Fradley was chosen chairman and a decision was made to organize a community library. A meeting was held on Oct. 16 and a library board was founded. The first officers were: chairman, H. Fradley; vice-chairman, Heather Kleiner; secretary, Beatrice Perley; treasurer, William Grasuik; executive, Leona Hankin, Elmer Harke, Winnie Borys and Walter Perley. Members at large were Olga Chranowski, the Rev. and Mrs. R. Hetherington, Mrs. N. Kusyk, Mrs. W. Murphy, Mrs. Harke and Phyllis Madiuk.

Donations were solicited from all organizations in the village and district amounting to \$345.00. Of this \$320.00 was spent immediately on books to make the library eligible for the 1968 Government grant. It was received in January and matched any amount the local people could raise and spend on books through the year.

The official opening was held on March 9, 1968 and was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Wiltshire. Mrs. Hankin read a history of the development of the library over the past years. Mr. Wiltshire addressed the group and then presented a cheque (grant) and declared the library officially open.

Early in 1970 the village assumed responsibility for the rent but money still had to be raised for

supplies and books.

During 1970 the Yellowhead Regional Library was formed and Thorsby Library became a member. It was no longer necessary to raise money for books, as a steady supply was assured. In that year the council began negotiations for a building where the library could have permanent premises. One of the old schools was purchased and the library has since been located in it. The room is now well equipped and shares the building with the kindergarten and the Action Centre, which is soon available for all public meetings and organizations to rent.

The total number of books at the end of 1978 was 5,320. Many changes have been made; there are new shelves, new furniture has been purchased and curtains hung. In 1978 the membership reached 170. The new library board consists of, president Isabel Bychyk, vice-pres. Dorothy Adamic, sec.-treas. Doreen McKenzie. Librarian is Leona Hankin. Other members are Mary Hoffman, Mrs. Veona Zingel, Mrs. Woolard, Mrs. Olga Chranowski and Dr. and Mrs. G.M. Hutchinson.

GUSTAF AND HAZEL TURNQUIST

Gustaf Turnquist was born in Norway in 1891 and came to Canada when he was 5. His wife-to-be, Hazel, was born in Detroit, Minnesota in 1894. They were married in 1919 at Gwynne, Alta. in Hazel's mother and father's home. Their only child, Cecil, was born in 1924.

Gus and Hazel came to Thorsby on Dec. 4, 1942 from Bittern Lake, They bought 15 acres of land from Mr. Green, and lived there until 1946, when they bought an acreage from Clee Hale and built a house on it.

Hazel worked in the hotel and at Mrs. Arthur's cafe. She also did housework for Mr. and Mrs. Rolston. Gus did carpentry and tin smithing work, and put lightning rods on houses.

Hazel moved to Wetaskiwin in 1959 and worked in the Peace Hill Foundation (Senior Citizens Home). She bought a 4-room home in Wetaskiwin and lived there until 1977, when she moved to the Kiwanis Manor where she resides today.

Their son, Cecil, married Helen Reuhiem, and they have 7 children.

HISTORY OF THE UNION CAFE PROPRIETOR, GEORGE WONG KIM

as related by George W. Kim

George Wong Kim emigrated from China in 1921. He was born in the village of Toysun which was near Canton. His father Wong Lipl White had arrived in Canada in 1913 and was employed by Swifts Packing Plant in Edmonton.

When George came to Edmonton he worked in the Maple Leaf Cafe on Whyte Avenue which was owned by his three uncles on his mother's side of the family. He lived with them also. After several years in the cafe he changed jobs and worked in the Cecil

Hotel Cafe on Jasper Avenue.

In 1928 he returned to China and married Ma Kwun Ying in 1929. She was born in the same district he had grown up in. Her home was about 8 miles from George's native village. He remained in China for about 20 months, then returned to Canada. His next job paid only \$15.00 a month and after some time he decided that he would never get ahead that way so quit. He and another person formed a partnership and bought a cafe in Berwyn, in northern Alberta, for \$1,000.00. They operated it for 10 years and sold it after the Second World War ended.

George returned to Edmonton and in 1947 bought the cafe in Thorsby from Mr. Mah. It was originally owned by Jim Howe under the name of Victoria Cafe and stood very close to where the present day premises of the Sears Order Office is. Mr. Mah had

bought it from Jim Howe.

George operated his new cafe with the help of his father and changed its name to Union Cafe. In 1950 he relocated to a new building a few blocks south on the same street. He had bought a lot with an unfinished building on it and tore the building down and replaced it with a new one. The location was beside the garage owned by Popiks, and today it is known as Doug's Auto Body Shop.

George's father continued to help him until he became ill and died in 1970.

George's wife Ma Kwun Ying had remained in China all those years, and, in 1971 she immigrated to Canada to join George in Thorsby. Since then they have worked together in the cafe and look forward to retirement, so in the fall of 1978 they decided to list the Union Cafe for sale. At their ages of 75 and 68 retirement is justified and the prospect most appealing.

They have one son Wong Ming Nim and 4 grandchildren. When he and his family arrived here in October 1974, they spent a few months in Thorsby and the children attended school here. The family now live in Edmonton and the oldest daughter is attending the University of Alberta. Their names are, Aren,

Albert, Jimmy Wong and Andra.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THORSBY UNITED CHURCH

Condensed by Margaret Campbell from "A History of Thorsby United Church" written by Mrs. Beatrice Perley

As early as 1904, a Methodist minister, The Rev. Mr. A.J. Law, held church services in homes in the Telfordville District. In 1906, the Rev. T.T. Reike was posted to Leduc and district, known then as the "Leduc West Mission Field". In 1909 Mr. Robert Elliot was appointed, by Dr. McQueen, Superintendent of Missions, to serve the Leduc West Mission field. In 1910, a student, Mr. W.A. Whidden, served the district and under his guidance, Telfordville was established as a centre for the Field. Telfordville Church was built in 1912, as a Presbyterian Church.



Pioneer Presbyterian Church built at Telfordville, 1912. Telfordville series.

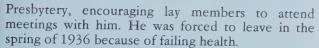
In March, 1924, the Rev. H.G. Rice began his ministry on this Field. He walked over the entire area west of the Calgary Trail and south from the Saskatchewan River to Pigeon Lake, serving 19 appointments.

In 1929 the Lacombe North-Western Railway, a dream come true for the West country pioneers, was being built from the west. When steel arrived at Weed Creek, Mr. John Rolston was shingling the roof of his store, the first one in the now village of Thorsby. A hall was built by Mr. Clee Hale which served as Thorsby's first school. Church services with Mr. Rice as minister, were held in Hale's Hall once a month or so and, later on, in the homes. The first Sunday School was organized in 1930 by Mrs. Stella Munn. A Ladies' Aid Society was organized in 1933. In the spring of 1933 Mr. Rice left the field because of ill health and went East to live.

In July, 1933, the Rev. Thomas F. McGregor came to take over the Telfordville Mission Field which by now, was narrowed down to 10 or 11 appointments. Mr. McGregor laid the foundations for organized churches - Boards, Sessions, Ladies' Aid, the building itself, and the relationship of our small groups to



The Rev. Thomas F. MacGregor United Church of Canada minister who served the Thorsby and Telfordville during the 1930's.



In July, the Rev. Douglas McTavish and his wife Cassia, came to Telfordville Mission Field. Church work was expanding and during 1936 it became apparent that the dimensions and demands of the Field were too great for one man to handle. After much discussion and many meetings, Calmar seceded, becoming part of the Leduc charge.



Thorsby United Church Ladies Aid, about 1938, with Rev. & Mrs. McTavish seated.

In 1936 a lot was bought by the Thorsby Ladies Aid at a price of \$50.00, on which to build a church. A Church Board was elected in 1938 and its members were; Mr. Asa Clark, Mr. D.C. MacRae, and Mr. R. Delameter, with Mr. Harry Dunlop as Sec.-Treas. Thorsby United Church was built in 1938-39 with Asa Clark as foreman, with volunteer labor. The church was finished early in the summer of 1939 and dedicated on August 29, 1939 with the Rev. D.C. Ramsey officiating and the Rev. Thomas Powell assisting. Mrs. McTavish laid the cornerstone and all



Ladies Aid meeting in Thorsby, 1935.

agreed it was a beautiful and impressive ceremony. The church was rented to the School Board for school classes, and by these means, over the next few years, the entire debt was paid off. In Sept. 1939, a committee of Mrs. Neid (organist until 1962) and Mrs. Delameter was appointed to select and buy an organ for the Church. In Nov., a new Karn organ was purchased and dedicated (price \$45.00).



Newly built United Church manse in 1939. On rear step, L. to R. Ron Dolling, Bill Littleproud, Jennie Armour, Mrs. Fowler, Agnes Morden, Mrs. A. Johnson. Standing on ground, Mrs. C. Seidel, Mrs. Saunders, Mrs. Morden, Mrs. VanAlstyne, Mrs.

Grant, D.C. McTavish, Mrs. W. Scobie, Mrs. E. Grant, Mrs. McTavish, Mrs. LaRose, and baby, Helen Johnson, Mrs. Haller, Mrs. C. Dolling & baby, Alex Saunders, Mrs. Wilson, George Morden and Fred VanAlstyne.

About 1939 the McTavishes moved into a newly built manse in Telfordville and continued to work in the Telfordville Mission Field which flourished and grew stronger under their influence. In April 1949, Mr. McTavish announced that they would retire at the end of June, both being in their late seventies by this time.

In August, 1949, the Rev. Gerald Hutchinson, his wife Miriam, and their 2 children, Kenneth and Beth, arrived to take charge. This young family entered into their work on the Field with enthusiasm and such groups as Explorers, C.G.I.T., Tyro Club, and Ladies Aid all flourished. They also took part in many community efforts and were soon known and respected far and wide. In 1953, Thorsby Church was



The Rev. Dr. Gerald M. Hutchinson, June 30, 1967.

added on to on the west side, by buying and moving the old swedish Lutheran Church from Willow Creek. It was made into Sunday School rooms, kitchen, and an office for the minister. Gas furnaces replaced the old oil stove, new pews for the church were purchased from Leduc, new wall finish was put on and linoleum floor cover added. A handsome new Communion table was donated by Mr. John Rolston as a memorial to his wife, Edythe, who died in 1954.

In May, 1959 Mr. Hutchinson was elected President of the Alberta Conference of the United Church of Canada. He also made us aware of our priceless heritage in the site of Rundle's Mission and was instrumental in the construction of a beautiful Memorial Lodge there.

In January 1962 the Thorsby Ladies Aid became Thorsby United Church Women when all the different Women's Societies of the Church across Canada became one. Thorsby United Church continues to lean heavily on their U.C.W. for financial as well as moral support.

The Hutchinson family spent a year's leave of absence in Europe, leaving on July 6, 1962. During



Thorsby United Church

their absence the Rev. Keith Page and wife Gladys took over. They were enjoyed by one and all. It was in Jan., 1963 that Telfordville Pastoral Charge voted to become a self-supporting charge. The Pages left in July, 1963 to return to New York for further study and the Hutchinsons returned from Europe. In April, 1965 an Honorary Doctorate was conferred on our minister by St. Stephen's College and he became the Rev. Dr. Gerald Hutchinson, B.A., B.D., D.D.

Thorsby United Church was flourishing and enjoyed a choir complete with gowns. A Lowry electric organ was purchased and dedicated on Jan. 19, 1964.

Dr. Hutchinson accepted the offer to become Executive Secretary of the Alberta Conference of the United Church of Canada, so on June 18, 1967 an "Open House" Farewell Party for the family was held in Rundle Mission in appreciation of their 18 years of

service among us. When Conference met in May, 1967 the Rev. Robert Hetherington and his wife Margaret were appointed to Telfordville Pastoral Charge. They lived in an apartment in Thorsby until a newly purchased three-bedroom manse in Warburg was ready for them. Our congregation in Thorsby was suffering from the loss of many faithful families who had moved away. Church attendance dropped drastically in spite of the dedicated efforts of our new minister and his wife to prevent it. They were very well liked in the entire field and ministered to our needs for 3 years when the Rev. John Palmer was appointed in 1970. This young bachelor was enjoyed by all, especially by the young people. He carried on the Hetherington's work with the young people and led them in a combined Thorsby-Warburg Hi-C group.

The student minister in the summer of 1971 was Mr. David Denholm and he returned to work here part time from Jan. to Sept. 1972. He and John Palmer batched in the manse in Warburg and worked hard to spark interest in church attendance. John Palmer returned to further study and David asked to stay on as lay supply when our efforts to obtain an ordained man failed. His supervising minister was the Rev. Bill Beach who came out from Edmonton when needed for communion services, weddings, baptisms, and meetings. In 1972 Telfordville Pastoral Charge became part of the new Yellowhead Presbytery. David Denholm returned to University in Vancouver in the fall of 1973.

In May, 1973 Conference appointed the Rev. Robert Howard Lang to our Pastoral Charge. He and his wife, Barbara, and 2 sons moved into the manse in Warburg. He served for 5 years but handed in his resignation in the spring of 1978. Efforts to attract another minister failed so Conference appointed Rev. John Forster from Ontario. His wife, Marilyn, is a guidance counsellor for the elementary schools in Drayton Valley. This young couple is now working valiantly to get acquainted in this large charge and to further church work.



St. David's United Church Telfordville, Oct. 1978.

INFORMATION REGARDING UNITED CHURCH

By Peter Wyllie

One item is not connected to the agriculturist's activities but is connected with the United Church. Shortly after we had settled at Thorsby, the congregation under the direction of the Rev. McTavish decided to build a United Church. Homer Delameter and Peter Wyllie were delegated to canvas the business men on Main Street for donations.

Starting one afternoon Homer took the west side and Peter the east side. When we reached the end of the business section, we had realized a grand total of \$185.00 to help build a new church. Quite a task with that amount of money! However, the congregation went ahead. A grant of \$400.00 had been secured from Home Missions Board. Some others donated 1000 ft. of lumber and other materials which could be used. Members of congregation under the direction of Mr. Asa Clark volunteered to do the building, and in the end a small church was built. It forms the chapel area of the present United Church in Thorsby today.

UKRAINIAN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST OF THORSBY

Compiled by Stella Hoshowski

In 1907 the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church parishioners received 10 acres of land from the government for a church and cemetery, named St. Nickolas, located 3 miles south and 1 mile west of Thorsby. A small church was built by the few parishioners. They donated their own lumber and materials that they needed. The carpenter was Mike Mudry and his helpers were: Messrs., Babiuk, Adamic, Popik, Radowitz, Kobeluck and Senio.

The Rev. Father Matthew Hura came from Edmonton to hold services whenever needed for 3

years. Then misfortune struck the parishioners when the church burned. In those early days, times were very hard and parishioners were poor. The roads were bush trails, horse and wagon transportation only.

In 1919, the parishioners bought 2 acres of land in the Buford district (Pt. SW 13-49-28 W4) located 3 miles east of Thorsby. Again, with the help of a carpenter and donated lumber and material, the parishioners built a larger church with a cemetery, named St. John's. This church and cemetery was known as the "Ruthyian Greek Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist of Buford". The Rev. Fathers Hura, Ladyka, Tederovich, Jackovwich and others held services there. They came from the "Basilian Fathers" in Edmonton. In those days some of the parishioners had to travel to Leduc by horse and buggy (or sleigh in winter) to bring the Rev. Fathers out to hold services. Many a time the Rev. Fathers had to stay overnight at the parishioners' homes and be driven back the next day.

As more settlers arrived, in a short time the church at Buford was inconvenient as it was too far from Thorsby and the St. Nickolas cemetery. On Jan. 8, 1931 at 4:00 P.M., the very first annual meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Radowitz. Election of officers was held. Mike Radowitz was elected chairman with Dan Popik as secretary. The main purpose of the meeting was: "Should we move the church from Buford to Thorsby?". It was voted "yes" to move the church and all parishioners were to donate \$10.00 each for expenses and to help with the moving.

In May 1931 a lot was purchased in Thorsby and with the help of the parishioners and movers, the church was moved to Lot 5, Block 1, Plan 6338 E.T. in Thorsby (which is now the location of Walt's Car Wash), and the Rev. Father S. Dydyk, OSBM, was minister.

The church needed to be repaired and painted. The members had to each pay \$10.00 to help with expenses. During the following years; 1932 until 1936, repairs and painting were done, the St. John's and St. Nickolas cemeteries were brushed and fenced with all members helping. The title of the church was changed from "Ruthyian Greek Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist" and registered as "Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist of Thorsby".

In 1939 a motion was made by the members to have the Rev. Fathers come once a month for a service and the Rev. Father was paid \$12.00 for each service and the cantor was paid \$2.50. A fee of \$5.00 was paid by each member.

In 1940, since there was never any formal women's organization such as U.C.W.L., 3 ladies were nominated to help look after church cleaning, sewing and embroidery of church linens. These ladies were called "Sisters". They were Jenny Radowitz, Jennie Senio, Annie Hanas, Mary Dzuiba, and Mary Dublanko. Once a year the congregation held a church picnic on July 7, which is a traditional holiday for



Aerial view of St. John Catholic Church.



Dome for the new U.G.C. Church.



Sunday School Class 1946.



Young Youth Club, 1959.



Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church that stood on the lot where Walt's Car Wash is now located. Taken in 1934.

Ukrainians called "St. Johns", and in November. weather permitting, a Thanksgiving dinner was held. The food was prepared by each lady at home and brought to the church grounds where a small shelter was built by the men. There the ladies could warm the food on an old coal and wood stove. Dishes and cutlery were brought from home. Benches were made where people could sit and enjoy their meal and have a friendly visit with the neighbours after Mass. The cost was 75# per plate for adults, 45# for school age children, with the small children admitted free. This was an event where both men and women worked together to raise funds for expenses of the church. Many donations were made by various members of such items as: a tabernacle, church bell, candle holders, statues, Holy Pictures, etc.

In 1941 the church was heated by a coal and wood stove, with the wood sawed and split, and hauled to the church by one of the members, for which the church board paid \$3.00 for a triple wagon box. One of the members was appointed to start the fires and also sweep the snow each time there was a church service.

In 1944 a motion was made to make new pews for the church. Each member was to donate \$5.00 for material and varnish and 2 members from the church board made the pews.

In 1946 a motion was passed that each family pay \$8.00 yearly for membership. The church needed painting inside so the members were asked to pay \$10.00 each towards the cost.

In 1949 the Rev. Father S. Kurylo came to Thorsby as our pastor. He had intentions of organizing a summer camp for our youth. When a suitable spot was found on the shore of Pigeon Lake, the parish men and women would drive there to help grub trees, cut grass and do whatever else had to be done in order to help build an auditorium and dormitories. With the help of people from Calmar, Leduc and Thorsby, the official opening of St. Basil Villa Camp was on Aug. 5, 1950 with the blessing by the Most. Rev. Neil Sarvaryn, OSBM. The beginnings were small, but the camp has improved where today a lot of our youth can have religious studies of the Ukrainian culture, etc.

In 1954 the church bell was erected and a bell tower was built. In 1958 the Rev. Father B. Lysak came to Thorsby as our parish pastor. On Jan. 24,

1960 an important annual meeting was held. After election of officers, a discussion was held regarding building a new church on Pt. NW 11-49-1-W5, 4.82 acres of land which is located 1/2 mile south of Thorsby and was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pedrucky. At the same meeting a building committee was elected; Humphrey Verhun as president, John R. Powlik secretary-treasurer, George Pichonsky, Peter Popik, Andrew Powlik, Fred Radowitz, Mike Pankewicz, Walter Hanas, William Hoshowski, and George Hanas as trustees.

On March 3, 1960 the Very Rev. Bishop Neil Savaryn and the Rev. Father B. Lysak and all the men on the building and church committees met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey Verhun to discuss plans for the building of the new church. They all drove to the present church site where the Rev. Bishop Savaryn gave his blessing praying that with God's help the parishioners would be able to construct the new church. The first load of lumber was bought on March 17, 1960 by P. Rezik. The blueprints for a 30 x 80 ft. church were drawn up by architect Bronek Zolkiewski of Thorsby. The committees made plans for buying all the material needed.

On March 21, 1961 a contract was drawn up by John Hnatiw, an Edmonton contractor, with the congregation to do construction work on the church. In the spring of the same year, Humphrey Verhun, with John Senio's help, staked out the measurements for the foundation. Mr. Bronek Zolkiewski was carpenter and with help from the committees, the men poured the foundation and did the wall structure. Don Stewart of Edmonton constructed the steeple. Fred Pankewicz supplied all electrical material and Mike Kostyk did the wiring. John Hnatiw continued with the construction of steel beams, main dome and 4 small domes, roofing, shingling and sheathing the domes, erecting and anchoring of crosses and domes. All work was to be done by Aug. 1, 1961. The erection of the first steeple took place Friday, Aug. 11 with the Blessing of the Crosses taking place on Sunday, Aug. 13 by the Very Rev. Bishop Neil Savaryn, assisted by the Basilian Fathers of Edmonton and the Rev. Father B. Lysak. The ceremony was followed by High Mass and the Holy Sacraments. This was the first service held in the incomplete church.

In 1962 the gas furnace was installed in the church and the first Christmas Eve Midnight Mass (Julian Calendar) was celebrated on Jan. 6, 1962 in the new church with the Rev. Father Lysak the Celebrant. High Mass and Holy Sacraments and the joyous singing of Christmas carols were held with about 250 people participating in the service. After Christmas, work commenced on the inside of the church, laying another floor, sheathing walls, etc. In Sept. 1963 the church was stuccoed by Walter Brandt of Warburg.

On Nov. 2, 1964 the Rev. Father Ralph Melnyk was welcomed to our parish and celebrated his first

Mass.

In 1965 the church bell and tower was erected on the new site beside the church and the grounds were

landscaped.

In Jan. 1966 a Diocesan Fund was started and 10% donated to the diocese. The old church was being dismantled in April 1966. On July 7, 1966 the corner store was blessed and installed in the new church by the Very Rev. Bishop Neil Savaryn with the assistance of the Rev. Father Melnyk, the Rev. Father Pidskalny and the Rev. Father Isador. During that year, 3 sides of the church lot were fenced and trees and shrubs were planted. Pipe posts and chains were put up around the lawn. On Jan. 30, 1967 a contract was drawn up between the church congregation and Anton Mantel of Leduc for finishing the inside of the church with ribbon cut mahogany, plywood for the main part and window frames. The ceiling was to be gyproc-sprayed with a soft and hard acoustic spray, etc. The spray painting and star design inside the large dome were done by board members Humphrey Verhun, Steve Ostapchuk, John Senio, Joe Horutko and Mike Wurban.

On Oct. 9, 1967 the Rev. Father Myron Chimy came to serve our church parish. The floor carpeting had been laid in April of 1967 with the help of the committee men.

In Nov. 1968 the new oak pews were installed, as well as 4 side altars, and 2 flower stands which were made by Bronek Zolkiewski. A red rug was laid from the entrance to the front altar. A water well was drilled

beside the church by Hostyn Drilling.

On Nov. 9, 1969 His Excellency Bishop Neil Savaryn was welcomed to the new church by Humphrey Verhun on behalf of the congregation, with a loaf of bread and salt (a Ukrainian tradition when a new church is to be blessed) and a bouquet of roses was presented to the Rev. Bishop by Virginia Verhun, on behalf of the parish. Then with the assistance of the Rev. Fathers V. Pedskalny, B. Lysak, R. Melnyk, M. Chimy; 6 altar boys; 12 church and building committeemen (all wearing blue and yellow banners, a symbol of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church); 3 cantors leading the choir, and about 350 people in the congregation; His Excellency the Bishop officially opened and blessed the new altar and church. The ceremony was followed by the celebration of High Mass and the Holy Sacraments. Dinner was served by the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League at the Thorsby Community Centre for all the members and guests. This was a very happy occasion for everyone as the new church was now completed, with many of the sacred fixtures having been donated by the members. The present church is complete with modern washroom facilities and a cry-room for the babies.

In 1970 the board members planned to erect an iron fence, 2 large gates and 2 small gates in front of the church. Blueprint plans were drawn up by the President, H. Verhun, and sketched by Steve Klimosko. Iron rods were supplied by Pankys,



Picture of Ukrainian Greek Catholic Men's group. Church of St. John.
Back row: Peter Kuzio, Mike Mikula, Metro Kobeluk, Bill Kuta, William
Sturko Jr., Steve Senior, Peter Rybe. 2nd row: Walter Hanas, Dymetro
Hawroylowski, William Popik, John Kuzio, John Chura, Johnny Popik,
Fred Paskowski, Wasyl Pankewicz. Front row: Tony Oneski, John
Senio, George Hanas, Mike Pankewicz, Father Orest Slobodian,
Harry Brozny, Bill Senio, Bill Hoshowski, Mike Wurban.

Drayton Valley, and posts by Fred Paskowski. With the help of the members, the long winter task began-cutting all the iron rods to the required lengths at Humphrey Verhun's farm. Cutting was all done by hand. With the members' help and with Eugene Senio as the welder, the iron rods were welded together in readiness for the fence erection. The outside of the church was painted in Sept. 1970 and the old church lot was sold.

On Oct. 25, 1971 the parish welcomed the Rev.

Father Ben Hrynyshyn.

Both St. John's and St. Nickolas' cemeteries were

levelled and grass was seeded.

In the spring of 1976 the iron fence in front of the church was erected with the help of the Rev. Father Hrynyshyn, church members, and Mr. Arnold Kruger. The Rev. Father Hrynyshyn celebrated his last service in our parish on St. John's Day - July 7, 1976. On Oct. 22, 1976 after a lengthy illness he passed away. On Nov. 20, 1976 the Rev. Father Orest Slobodian was welcomed to the parish. His first service will long be remembered as a special occasion since Mr. and Mrs. John Senio, oldtimers of the parish, were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

At the annual meeting in 1977 a discussion took place concerning the possibility of having English Low Mass celebrated in our church. The Rev. Father Slobodian stated that the Second Vatican Council

passed a resolution that Mass be held in the language understood by the people.

In 1978 it was decided that one Sunday Mass would be celebrated in the church in the Ukrainian language and the following Sunday's Mass would be in English language.

Two new cemetery signs were made and erected on the St. John's and St. Nickolas' cemeteries. Two large iron gates and 2 small iron gates, all with gold crosses, were made by one of the members, Mr. Jim Watkins. With the help of William Hoshowski and Mike Wurban the gates were installed on the iron fence at the new church on June 24, 1978.

The first baptism was on Aug. 13, 1961 for Master

Darcy Kuta and Miss Darlene Kuzio.

The first funeral service held was for Mrs. Mary Derkoch in Feb. 1962.

The first marriage was for Russell Hoshowski and Mary Bartozko on April 24, 1963.

Presently there are 80 family church members.

During the years, the following men have served as president after Mike Radowitz; Mike Kuzio, Dan Popik, George Hanas, Andrew Powlik, Tom Dzuiba, Steve Ostapchuk, Mike Pankewicz, Humphrey Verhun, Metro Dool, William Hoshowski, and George Pichonsky.

Those who have served as secretary after Dan Popik are John R. Powlik, George Radowitz, Humphrey Verhun, Matt Suchodolski, Harry Pichonsky, Mike Senio and Phyllis Madiuk.

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

by Stella Hoshowski, president 1978

The Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of St. John's Church of Thorsby was first established on Nov. 21, 1949. The organizational meeting was held at the home of Sadie Senio. The Rev. Father S. Kurylo acted as chairman and 27 ladies were present.

Nominations for elections were held and those elected were: President Kate (Mrs. Nick Sendziak; Vice-president Mary (Mrs. Dziuba); Secretary Anne (Mrs. John R. Powlik) and Treasurer Mrs. Steve Senio.

A membership fee of \$1.00 was collected from each woman. It was decided the club would hold a Thanksgiving Lunch in the hall in Thorsby. The hall was rented from J.R. Powlik for a fee of \$5.00. In December, 1949 a chicken dinner and raffle was held. Tickets for the raffle were 15¢ each or 2 for 25¢. Four hundred tickets were sold by the young girls of the congregation. Prizes for the raffle were donated by the ladies. Proceeds from this function netted a profit of \$143.85 and the club was now in business.

In 1950, the club held more functions, such as a whist drive and dance, bingos, July 7 Chicken Dinner (adults 75¢ a plate), a dance and concert. On May 21 of



Picture of U.C.W.L. First Ladies Club. Early 1950's: Millie Ostopchuk, Mary Kobeluck, Kate Sendziak, Annie Hanas Horutko, Sadie Senio, Theadora Rybe, Jennie Radowits, Mary Pichonsky, Tillie Suchodolski, Jenny Senio, Mary Shewchuk, Mary Senio and Mary Dzuiba.

that year the club sent \$26.00 to the Winnipeg Flood Fund. During the Christmas season many members went caroling with other church members to wish good health and prosperity to the homes they visited. These visits were looked forward to and people gave them Christmas treats and donations. With this money the club was able to purchase dishes, pots, silverware and tablecloths for their catering.

Each step forward was by no means easy and the members worked hard to raise money without modern conveniences. They purchased items for their church such as paint for the floor, a small altar "Tetrapod" that cost \$150.00, cassocks for the altar boys, everlights and an oil heater which the men installed. Catechism was taught to the children by Sisters from Edmonton; some parents had the nuns stay in their homes during the 2 weeks of the instruction.

Dec. 21, 1952 a new executive was elected. It was: Pres. Annie (Mrs. George Hanas) who served until 1961; Vice-pres. Mary Dziuba; Secretary Mary Kobeluck and Treas. Tillie Suchodolski.

In July of 1953 the club had its first experience of catering to a big wedding. The wedding was held in the Devon Hall and the women prepared the food in their homes. Cabbage rolls were made in the home of Annie Verhun. The members donated chickens, pickles, pies and other foods. The charge was \$1.25 per plate with a midnight lunch also served. Eighty-three dozen buns at a cost of 23¢ a dozen were used. Their husbands drove them to the hall. The roads were bad as it rained heavily during the evening. The trip home was hard with model T cars. The wedding was that of Miss Alice Suchodolski and Mr. George Mucha.

The club catered again in Nov. for the wedding of Mary and Wasyl Pankewicz. This was in the Sunnybrook Hall and was easier as they had some experience and it was closer to their homes. In the years to follow they catered to many more weddings.

On March 10, 1957 the club donated \$100.00 to the Community Centre in Thorsby. In 1958 the women donated \$150.00 towards the purchase of a car for the parish priest, the Rev. Father B. Lysak.



Children's Day, 1959.

In 1959 at the annual meeting the catering price was set at \$1.50 per plate including a midnight lunch. For the members the price remained at \$1.25. Father Lysak asked the group if they would be interested in building a new church. All were in favor. Sophie Radowits was elected Secretary. The other executive members remained in office.

The club gave \$4,000.00 to the building fund in 1960 and the members were kept busy raising money to help with the expenses of building the new church. Jenny Kushnyrick was elected to replace Mrs. Radowits as Secretary that year.

When 1961 rolled around the club was able to turn over \$4,800.00 to the church building fund. Mrs. Metro Kobeluck replaced Mrs. Hanas as President at the annual meeting with Mrs. George Pichonsky elected as Vice-pres.

Committees were set up for church cleaning and for washing the altar linens.

The 1964 annual meeting saw Phyllis Madiuk elected as President, an office she held until 1970.

The 1966 annual meeting brought Marie Powlik into the executive as Secretary-treasurer and Marjorie Senio became the Vice-president. She held this office until 1972.

Centennial Year was observed with the women sewing blue and yellow aprons for each one. These were worn when they catered. A donation of \$100.00 was given to the Centennial Fund.

During 1968 and 69 the women transferred \$6,500.00 to the church building fund. This was for

rugs, pews and other needed items.

In 1970 catering prices were set at \$2.25 a plate. The women decided to give \$25.00 each year to the Thorsby High School Awards Night for one of the students. A red cloak (falon) was purchased for Father Hrynyshyn.

Millie Ostapchuk was elected Pres. and held this position until 1973. Shirley Radowits was elected

Sec.-treas. She held this office until 1972.

In 1973 Stella Hosowski was elected Pres. and Jeanne Sturko became Sec.-treas. It was agreed to send Mass Cards to members who were ill, flowers to new mothers and buy a gift from the club for members who celebrated their 25th or 50th wedding anniversaries. That year the church hosted the World Day of Prayer.

The 1974 annual meeting elected Mary Pankewicz to be Vice-pres. In 1975 Ann Verhun was elected Vice-pres. On Nov. 2 the U.C.W.L. celebrated their 25th anniversary. The event was observed with High Mass in the morning and a buffet supper for the members and their guests in the Community Centre. Charter members present that evening were Katie Dool and Mary Kuzio, who were both in their 90s; Jenny Senio, Annie Hanas, Mary Dziuba, Theodora Rybie, Katie Cholach, Katie Kobeluck, Katie Kostyk, Katie Powlik, Mary Pichonsky, Anne Verhun, Millie Ostapchuk, Phyllis Madiuk and Stella Hoshowski.

The 1976 annual meeting elected Stella Rybe as Sec.-treas. Other members of the executive remained in office and this same executive is in office in 1978.

Presently there are 37 members.

Since the club started catering they have served 110 wedding suppers, 60 banquets and socials, sold lunch at several farm auctions and many lunches after funerals. Most of the functions had from 200 to 450 guests.

Many of the women wondered over the years if it was possible for them to carry so much responsibility in their club work in addition to their own homes and family chores. In 1978 when they look back they see it was possible and they have proof of it in the beautiful church located just ½ mile south of Thorsby.



Ukrainian Catholic Women's League — Church of St. John. Back row: Katie Brozny, Susie Mikula, Sophie Paskowski, Phyllis Madiuk, Sophie Madiuk, Anne Kobeluk, Christine Kuzio, Jean Sturko, Kate Pankewicz, Millie Kuta. Second row: Natalie Popik, Judy Brozny, Sophie Powlik, Stella Kuzio, Shirley Radowits, Mary Pankewicz, Marie Kobeluk, Mary Hanas, Mary Chura, Sophie Senio. Front row: Stella Rybe, Annie Verhun, Stella Hoshowski, Kate Powlik, Mrs. Jennie Senio, Father Orest Slobodian, Mrs. Kate Cholak, Mrs. Kay Kostyk, Kate Kobeluk, Mrs. Annie Hanas, Mrs. Mary Pichonsky.

UKRAINIAN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, THORSBY

from recollections of Wm. Stashko

Ukrainian immigrants arriving in Canada saw this was a land with prospects of establishing a free and prosperous life for themselves and their children. At first they were confined to themselves as they did not know the English language. This lead to determined effort toward obtaining public schools for their children. It followed that in many families, learning the English language by parents was speeded up when children started attending schools. Often the youngsters helped in refining some of the broken English dialect of the parents, such as: "predus" was corrected to potatoes, "kack" to cake and "herrick" to hay rake.

Spiritual and social life existed under many difficulties and hardships. During those pioneer years meetings were held to sort out and resolve priorities and directions relating to such essential needs as baptisms, marriages and funerals in the Ukrainian language involving traditions they were accustomed to and most comfortable with.

In 1921 a library and adult education organization (Prosvits) was established in the name of Taras Shevchenko, a famous Ukrainian poet. A respectable number became members at the first meeting. During that time, Paul Adamic donated land for a hall, church and cemetery. A decisionwas made to build a hall and members of the first executive for this project were: president, D. Karashowski; secretary, Theodore (Fred) Adamic; treasurer, N. Babiak; auditors, P. Faraschuk and George Medisky. With a sincere effort of the executive and co-operation of all members, the hall was built. It served as a convenient place for church services and social functions. Later, the hall also served as a place for Ukrainian classes for children. The teacher was Rev. D. Senata and his class loads numbered 60 or even more



Ukrainian National Hall in Thorsby 1946. It was moved in from Alex Mucha's farm east of Thorsby.



Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church.

The first church service in the hall was conducted by Rev. Kusey. It was a very touching experience as it gave the members a sense of accomplishment toward their goal. Tears of joy were seen in the eyes of many. The next service happened to be on a church holiday, July 12th commemorating apostles Peter and Paul. As a result of this pleasant occasion it was resolved to name the church, Saints Peter and Paul.

The next project was building the church. The building committee, whose task started with canvassing for funds, consisted of: P. Faraschuk, Theodore Adamic, N. Babiak, D. Karashowski and Wm. Stashko. This committee also took on the task of assuring that Ukrainian classes continued for children. The church was completed in 1927 4 miles east of Thorsby. Both the church and hall were moved to Thorsby in 1943. Presently church services are conducted by Rev. H. Wasyliw.

It is fortunate that there is one original member of the immigrant category still living. He has been an active member for over half a century, serving as cantor most of the time. He (Wm. Stashko) is blessed with good health and memory to enable this facet of local history to appear here.



Mr. and Mrs. Peel (nee Rose Mary Koziol) October 7, 1978.



Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Ladies Club. Back row: Mrs. Mike Faraschuk, Mrs. Alex Chrunik, Mrs. John Rovinsky, Mrs. Nazar, Mrs. Alex Sawitsky, Mrs. Mike Chrunik, Mrs. Wm. Stashko. Center row: Mrs. Rovinsky Sr., Mrs. Ilco Harrish, Mrs. Fred Adamic, Mrs. Andrew Babiak. Front: Mrs. Geo. Melynchuk, Mrs. Julia Maryka, Mrs. Farashchuk, Mrs. Mike Babiak, Mrs. Martha Switlyk.

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX LADIES' CLUB

By Katherine Pyrcz

A determined group of ladies formed a Ukrainian Orthodox Ladies' Club in 1922. With Julia Maryka as president and later Pauline Faraschuk, their aim was to raise money to help their husbands build a church. They already had a hall which was located 3 miles east of Thorsby.

On July 12 (a Ukrainian holiday) they held their annual picnic. For this event all the members donated a complete meal for about 15 people. This included food like pyrogies, cabbage rolls, chicken, and pies, just to mention a few varieties. Although the times were hard, people were very generous. Guests came from miles around with their families for this event, travelling mostly by horse and wagon or on foot, for dinner and to enjoy a nice visit.

The ladies who were active in the club then were Pauline Faraschuk, Annie Terelesky, Clara Adamic, Mary Adamic, Julia Maryka, Maria Popik, Pearl Lyka, Katherine Mychalyshyn, Antonia Faraschuk, Katie Babiak, Anne Stashko, Mary Shymansky, Annie Chrunik, Eva Harrish, Mrs. Marushak, and Mrs. Nick Babiak.

During Ukrainian Christmas they went carolling in the neighbourhood. Of course some of the husbands went along too for this was a real treat, because it wasn't very often they had a chance to visit some of their friends who lived farther away. Food and refreshments were offered at every house.

In 1943 the church that was built on a farm was moved to Thorsby, and in 1945 the club joined the Ukrainian Women's Assocation of Canada, organized

by a Mrs. Mychalyshyn of Edmonton. The first president was Antonia Faraschuk.

Mrs. Pauline Faraschuk, until her passing, worked hard for the club, as well as the church. While still able, Anna Keaschuk took over her duties. Most of the above mentioned ladies have passed away, but the club is still active with new members joining.

Eva Pyrch is our president now, Marta Switlyk is secretary, and Violet Kobeluck is treasurer.

Each member takes a turn being president. The annual picnic is still a tradition, but now our club also caters to functions of all sorts, for whoever is in need of a caterer. The money is used for the upkeep of the church and the hall which is in much use since being moved into town also.



Back: Kay Pyrcz, Olga Popik, Elsie Mychalyshyn, Stella Babiak, Elizabeth Marion, Nancy Shymansky, Nettie Koziol, Dianne Bendza and Elizabeth Rovinksy. Front: Hazel Chrunick, Mary Rovinsky, Violet Kobeluck, Eva Pyrch, Martha Switlyk, Mrs. Chornoluk, Katrine Nazar.

Lately a generous donation was made to a proposed Ukrainian Orthodox museum in Saskatoon. Part of 51st Street pavement was also paid for by the club.

Mrs. Switlyk, an honorary sister, still takes pride in the church and keeps it neat for Sunday services. For this the club is very grateful.

Our club would really suffer without ladies like her, also our other honorary members, Mrs. Rovinsky Sr., Mrs. Nazar, Mrs. Chornoluk, Mrs. Babiak Sr., and Mrs. Huculak, for the time they devote to the club's endeavours.



The 3 grain elevators in Thorsby before the Pioneer Elevator burned in

UNITED GRAIN GROWERS

by Loretta Wonitoy

In 1929, a 27,000 bushel capacity elevator was built by United Grain Growers in Thorsby. The cost for this structure was \$11,839.55 - a paltry sum today, but a sizeable investment at that time. The following year, the first agent's house was built at a cost of \$802.75. Imagine trying to even add on a small room to a house for that price today!



Three elevator agents representing the Pioneer Co. Alberta Wheat Pool and United Grain Growers in Thorsby. Picture taken at Pigeon Lake.

In 1941, a 30,000 bushel annex was built, and electricity was installed in 1942. The elevator managers from 1929, to the time of writing are;

J.T. Benidick, B. Olstead, Andrew Henning, Frank Neid, Otto Roesler, Arnold Jones, Mervin Snyder, Murray Schrader, P. Van der Veeken, Robert H. White, Paul Suchow, and Henry Puzey.

JOHN WOLOSHYN

By Himself

My connection with Thorsby began September 1, 1953 when I joined the Thorsby High School staff.

I grew up and went to school at the coal mining town of Luscar, 60 miles southwest of Edson. During the early thirties and at the height of the Depression, my father gave up coal mining and moved north of Vermilion where he began farming. I finished my high school at a small town, Derwent, the size of Thorsby. I decided to become a teacher and entered the Normal School at Edmonton, graduating in 1937. I began teaching at a rural school at Rusylvia, grades 1 to 9, with 45 pupils.

Those were my hardest two years. I moved to the small town of Rycroft, in the Grande Prairie area. I became the principal of a two-room school, teaching grades 5 to 9. I taught there for three years.

I enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in the summer of 1942, serving 4 years, part of it in England. I entered the University of Alberta in 1946 to work toward my B.Ed. degree. After graduation, I began teaching at Edgerton in the Wainwright School Division in the fall of 1949. During the 4 years I taught in Edgerton, I began work towards a Bachelor of Science Degree by the summer school route. I received this degree in 1954.

After moving to Thorsby in 1953, I taught mathematics and science courses in grades 10 to 12. I became principal in the fall of 1959 and also got married that same year. My teaching and administration included grades 1 to 12, housed in three separate buildings.

Reorganization took place in 1965 and my responsibilities were now grades 7 to 12. I remained as principal of Junior and Senior High School until my retirement in 1977.



Thorsby High School class of 1977 graduation.

BRONISLAW "BRONEK" ZOLKIEWSKI

written by his children

Bronislaw Zolkiewski was born in Krzemieniec, Poland on August 2, 1900, the second youngest of 7 children. As a young man, he went into the army, where he specialized in telecommunications, the telegraph and telephone, and later worked for the post office in these areas.

He emigrated to Canada in July of 1928, landing in Quebec City. From there he boarded a train to Edmonton, where he was met by the Hoffmans. He had a job waiting for him at their store in Calmar. For the first couple of years, learning the language and learning a new business, kept him occupied. The trip across the ocean took 7 days from Liverpool, England on the Canadian Pacific S.S. Montclare.

When Hoffmans opened up their new store in Thorsby, Bronek came along with them. He decided to settle in the infant community and purchased land for his home from the C.P.R. in 1932.

Woodworking, even in the old country, had always been his hobby, and while he worked in the general store he spent his spare time developing his hobby in a small shop located in the garage behind his house on Thorsby's main street. One of his early projects was the completion of a boat which he used for fishing on Pigeon Lake and Wizard Lake.

During the mid 1940's his woodworking hobby became a full time occupation. As business expanded, the need for a larger and more complete working area became a necessity. "Bronek's Reliable Cabinet Shop"

came into being in the early 1950's.

In this shop he pursued every facet of his trade from designing, constructing and finishing furniture to carrying out renovations and repair work. His pride was the work he did for Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church in Thorsby. His handiwork can be seen in some of the public buildings and churches, also homes in the village and surrounding communities. He would tackle any job, big or small, from repairing a broken chair, sharpening a saw or reupholstering someone's settee. His motto was "I let my work speak for itself." Until arthritis made it too difficult, he played the violin or mandolin. In Poland he had been in a family orchestra.

Bronek married Stefania Adamkiewicz of Calmar in 1934. They had two children, Alfreda and Richard, both of whom graduated from Thorsby High School. Alfreda married Bernard Melik and they have 3 daughters; Michele, Susan and Roberta. They now reside in St. Albert, Alberta.

Richard married Connie Libby of Telfordville and has two children; a boy, Ashley, and a daughter, Julie. They now reside in Edmonton.

In the '60's and '70's Bronek made three trips back to visit his relatives in the old country. He really enjoyed those visit but was always glad to return to Canada.

He passed away on July 11, 1978. Stefania lives on a farm near Calmar.



Bronek standing in front of their home in Thorsby's main street, 1939. His 1938 Chev. car parked in front.



Bronek Zolkiewski with the boat he built about 1936.



Back row: L. to R. Susan Melik, Richard Zolkiewski, his father Bronek Zolkiewski. 2nd row: his daughter Alfreda Melik, her daughter Michele. Front row: Bernie Melik, his daughter Roberta, Julie and Ashley Zolkiewski and their mother Connie (Libby) Zolkiewski.

THE STAN ZUREK FAMILY

by Rosemarie Zurek

Stan and Rosemarie met while both were on the teaching staff in Thorsby. Little did either know, when they accepted positions on the Thorsby staff, that they would meet, marry, and make Thorsby their permanent home.

Stan, the second child in a family of 3, was born in the Calmar area where his parents, John and Lena, lived. A year after his birth the family purchased a farm in the Genesee area where they made their new home.

Along with his older brother Joe and younger sister Sophie, Stan received most of his education in the rural area schools, attending Templeton, Genesee, and Warburg. To complete his final 2 years of High School, Stan rode on Mr. Alton's school bus to Thorsby. Following graduation, he attended the U. of A. for 1 year enrolled in the Faculty of Education. The next 4 years were spent teaching, 1 year at Port View and 3 years at Genesee, before returning to the U. of A. for 1 more year of Education. His next teaching position was in the Science Dept. in the Thorsby Junior-Senior High School. The 2 more years of Education needed to obtain a B.Ed. degree were made up by attendance at summer schools and in 1957 the B.Ed. degree was granted at the Fall Convocation.

Following the resignation of Mr. Pailer in 1968, Stan became Vice Principal of the Thorsby Jr. Sr. High

School, a position which he still holds.

Rosemarie, the only child of Paul and Stella Bachkowski, was born in Rimbey, about 35 miles from Fraspur, a lumber camp where her father worked. About 3 years after she was born, the D.R. Fraser Lumber Co. moved their planer mill into the village of Breton. The residents of the camp community moved along with the mill. Rosemarie, with her parents, lived in Breton for the next 3 years, before moving to a farm 1 mile from town the year she started school. Rosemarie attended the Breton School from grades 1 through 12, walking the mile each day. Following completion of grade 12, she enrolled in the Faculty of Education at the U. of A. She received a bursary from the County of Leduc, obligating her to return to the



Education Week at the High School. L. to R. Teddy Branton, Stan Zurek, Sam Ollenberg, early 1960's.

county to teach for 2 years. Her first teaching position was in Thorsby in Sept. 1958 where she was assigned a grade 4 class. Her first classroom was what today is the meeting room in the Thorsby Action Centre. Her first class was made up of 32 students; 22 boys and 10 girls. Following 1 more year with a grade 4 class, she taught grade 5 for 4 years before leaving regular teaching duties.

On Apr. 25, 1962, Stan and Rosemarie were married in Breton and made their first home in the Alf Sulz apartments in Thorsby. Rosemarie continued to teach until their first child, Gerald Paul, was born Mar. 22, 1964.

They both liked living in the village of Thorsby well enough to choose it as their permanent home. Two residential lots were bought from Steve Dornan in the north west part of town along the creek and a new home was built in 1964, with Henry Schmolke as chief carpenter. The following year many hours were spent landscaping, tree planting, and generally improving the appearance of the yard surrounding the new home.

On July 1, 1966, 1 year before Canada's Centennial, a baby girl, Karen Jane, was born.

Mar. 14, 1968, the rejoicing over the birth of a baby boy, Michael John, quickly turned to tears when the infant passed away 8 days later.

Eight years later, on Dec. 30, 1976, joy reigned over the Zurek household with the arrival of Brian John. To a 12 year old brother and a 10 year old sister a new baby brother brought unmeasured joy and excitement.

Following the birth of their first child, Rosemarie, quit teaching to devote all her time to being wife and mother. When Gerald and Karen grew to school age, she once again returned to the classroom, this time as a substitute teacher. With the birth of Brian, the subbing was set aside, to be returned to at a later date.

Gerald and Karen are both presently attending Junior High School in Thorsby; Gerald in Grade 9 and Karen in grade 7.

While in grade 6, a highlight for Karen were the awards she received for her Remembrance Day Essay sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary to Thorsby Canadian Legion. After placing first in the Thorsby competition, her essay was entered in the Provincial competition where it placed first, then in the Dominion competition where it placed second.

Both Stan and Rosemarie have been active in the Thorsby Roman Catholic Church and in other community related activities.

Stan was elected to the Village Council in Oct. of 1964 and served continuously, except for 1 year, until Oct. 1977, when he decided not to seek re-election. Stan also served on the church council and was a member of the Lion's Club for a number of years.

Rosemarie is a member of Thorsby Community League where she held several executive positions over the 16 years as a member. She is also an active member of her church group, serving on the executive



Stanley Zurek family: Back row: Gerald. Seated: Rosemarie holding Brian, Stan and daughter Karen.

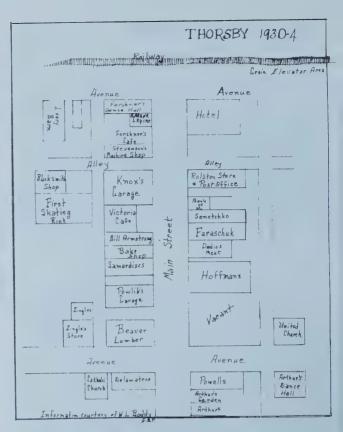
a number of times as well as an active participant in the catechism program for the last 12 years.

Stan's interest in horticulture has lead to a very satisfying as well as productive hobby. In a small plastic greenhouse in the back yard, many dozens of bedding plants are grown each spring and set out to show a blaze of color all summer long. A large garden also flourishes, providing the family with most of their vegetable needs. As well, family members and friends are the recipients of many trays of bedding plants and geraniums each spring.

Thorsby has provided a good home for the Zurek family. Stan and Rosemarie hope to continue to live and work for improvements in the village as it expands and grows with the times.



L. to R. Karen, Rosemarie holding Brian, Gerald. Jan. 9, 1977.











Staff of Thorsby Motors, Gary Kirchner, Ron Krueger and Doug Cranston.

FOOT NOTES



Thorsby Hall.



Back row: L. to R. Mayor Adam Chranowski, Jim Begalke, town maintenance, Peter Borys, councillor, Vern Bernes, maintenance, Jack Perrin, development officer. Front row: Veona Zingel, Mrs. Landouceur, secretary and Barbara Senio, councillor. Mrs. Veona Zingel is also a councillor.



Aerial view over Thorsby looking south with Highway 39 turning right. Straight highway leads south to Pigeon Lake.



Clarence Bittner working on Thorsby Main Street Project, October, 1978.



Thorsby Curling Rink building.



Thorsby Town Office, Cenotaph & Fire Hall. October 1978.





Family of Mrs. Sophia Pruneau. L. to R. Terry, Darrel Pruneau, Charles Perry, Sophia Pruneau, Charlotte Pruneau Makowsky, her husband Gary and Randy Pruneau.



Lyle Hier and Larry Kuzio new owners of Highway 39 Motors Ltd. Receiving keys from former owner, Leo Zingel.



Dr. Simon Lewin and receptionist Norma Lamrock in office of Thorsby Medical Clinic, 1979.



Russell Oleksky, Barrister, in his office in Thorsby.



The Peter Rybe family in 1978 at daughter Ariadne's wedding. L. to R. Valerie, Stella (mother) Ariadne, Peter (father), Betty and Bernadette Rybe Harrish.





WEDDINGS



Mr. & Mrs. Pete Swansons' wedding day 1890



Wedding photo of Mr. & Mrs. George McFarquhar







Kvarnberg family — July 17, 1917. — Emil & Tilly's wedding. Back R. (L. to R.) Elsie, Christine, Eric, Selma Westlund, Annie. Seated — Andrew, Kerstin, Emil, Tilda (Tilly) Westlund.



Chris & Martha Forster's wedding picture



Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kivitt



Wedding May 31, 1920 — Mr. & Mrs. Mike Anderson (nee Eva Terlesky)
From left to right back row — Wm. Sendziak; Pete Adamic; Steve Harrish; Paul
Adamic; and Wm. Mucha.
From left to right front row — Kate Popik; Mary Terlesky; The Groom Mike
Anderson; The bride Eva (nee Terlesky) and Millie Faraschuk.



Metro and Mary Kobeluck's wedding on Aug. 13, 1929



William & Eva Burgess wedding Jan. 1, 1934 — 22° below zero



John & Mary Terlesky wedding October 1939. L. to R. Arthur Terlesky brother of the groom; Sam Adamic cousin of the groom; The Groom John Terlesky; the Bride Mary (nee Poholka); Annabelle Kapatch friend of the bride; and Helen Marek niece of the bride.



Mr. & Mrs. John Slawski (Julia, daughter of Mike and Katie Mudry)



Wedding of John R. Powlik and Miss Anna Radowits in 1936





Mike and Amelia (Harrish) Lyka — 1948



Campbell — Jones in Oct. 1944 in Wetaskiwin Bridal couple Margaret Jones & Hugh Campbell



Mr. & Mrs. Walter Konduc Bride was Florence Kobeluck, Flower girl was her sister Jane Kobeluck Date Jan. 1950



Jim and Florence (Mudry) Duggan



Wedding of Doris Campbell and Donald Ohrn in 1950 at St. Stephen's College, Edmonton



Mr. & Mrs. George Kobeluck — Attendants. Joe Mudry, George Kuzio, Fred Paskowski, Bride's sister Rosy Borys, Lorena Kobeluck & Millie Jacoby.



Wedding of Elaine Ronalds and Wesley Warnock in Aug. 1955



Nov. 1955 wedding of Mike and Marjorie Senio
Back row L. to R. Harold Naprawa, Joe Prytula, bride & groom, George Kuzio and
Mike Sekora. Front standing, Dorothy Dublanko, Annette Naprawa, Seated, Joyce
Verhun, Cecilia Krawiec, Roseline Naprawa and flower girl Jeanie Verhun
standing.



Constable Roy Gardiner & Lorena Kobeluck's wedding, Oct. 1958 Attendants, Const. John Brown, Const. Lloyd Monson, Const. Bill Nesby & Const. Ernie Gaski. Bride's sisters Jane Kobeluck, Florence Konduc, cousins Joan Kohut and June Kobeluck



First wedding in U.G.C. Church April 1963, Russel and Mary Hashowski



Evelyn Kisser Ingraham on her wedding day, Aug. 3, 1960



Russel and Dianna Terlesky wedding Sept. 24, 1966



Wedding of Miss Elaine Panekwits and Dan Kuzio, 2nd. marriage in new church



Wedding of Ordan Kisser and Marilyn Dunlop — Nov. $10,\,1965$



First wedding at Rundle's Mission on Sept. 6, 1965. Bride and groom, Margaret Andrews and Tom Forgrave, with her father Georeg Andrews standing at back.



Richard and Vicki Terlesky cutting their wedding cake, July 20



Hugh Campbell escorting 3rd daughter Linda down the aisle for her marriage to Robert Green on Aug. 1975

Avon Moor



Avon Moor School, June 19, 1948 Teacher Mrs. Belinsky. Back row: Gordon Kirchner, Edward Pasut, Alvin Kruger, Donald Kirchner, Hans Meyer, Arthur Kivitt, Harvey Kruger, Hettie Knull, Marlene Kruger, Dorothy Stevens, Violet Simmon, Shelly Mellick, 2nd row: Charlia Libby, Jeanette Dolling, Mavis Kruger, Zenia Denschikoff, Shirley Palechuk, Joan Bentley, Frieda Pasut, Marjorie Libby, Doreen Pasut, Gladys Simmon, Lily Simmon, Inga Meyer. 3rd row: Wayne Brewster, Edwin Hubscher, Lorne Kruger, Billy Bentley, Jimmy LaRose, Gordon Bentley, Wilbert Stevens, Tony Denschikoff, Jim Bentley, Phyllis Roth, Joyce Pasut, Bernice Stevens and Joyce LaRose. Three students were missing in photo.



School Pistrict No. 4564

September 22, 1931

The First Homesteaders and Grants to the C.P.R. and the Hudson Bay Company

The Information on this map courtesy of: Alberta Provincial Museum and Archives and Alberta Government Map Division

ELROSE SCHOOL DISTRICT #4564

First Board Meeting Minutes — Telfordville, Sept. 28, 1931.

Moved by Geo. Morden that S. Lunde be Chairman, Carried.

Moved by S. Lunde that F. Van Alstyne be Sec. Treas. Carried.

Moved by S. Lunde that the Sec. Treas. salary be \$12.50 from date to Jan. 1, 1932. Carried. The Sec. Treas. was instructed to order from E.N. Moyer Co., a District seal, a rubber stamp and pad, 1 cash book, 1 minute book, 1 Shannon file, 1 carbon copy writing pad. The cash book referred to above to be ordered from the School Book branch and paid for by the Sec. Treas. out of his private funds, said amount to be refunded when District funds permit. From No. 35 was completed for dispatch to the Department. The Sec. Treas. was instructed to apply to the Debenture Branch for forms and notices for money bylaw.

An application was made to the Department for a school site on the S.E. 11-50-1-W5 and also on the N.E. corner of the N.E. 2-50-2-W5. The selection to be made by the Department.

Moved by S. Lunde that meeting adjourn.

Signed by S. Lunde and F.J. Van Alstyne.

NE. of sec. 2 site was 1½ miles north and S.E. of Sec. 11 site was 2 miles north of Telfordville.

The following are excerpts from minutes of meetings held by trustees of Elrose School District #4564, later re-named Avon Moor.

Oct. 17, 1931: Board willing to proceed with a temporary building for use as a classroom. Made plans to meet with Minister of Education.

Nov. 9, 1931: Board approved by-law #1 which was to borrow the sum of \$2000.00 to purchase three acres of land as a school site and to erect a 40-pupil school bouse.

Nov. 28, 1931: Board reconsidered and decided to rent and repair a building owned by Mr. G. Morden. Dec. 2, 1931: Secretary to write M. Samardzic regarding use of Municipal tractor for moving building.

Dec. 14, 1931: Erling Lunde to be paid \$7.00 for moving building from Morden's to site on Ron and Gladys Dolling's farm. Note:Building was placed on sleighs and moved with use of Lunde's 18-36 Hart-Parr steel-wheeled tractor.

Dec. 26, 1931: Board agreed to pay \$6.00 for 70 cubic feet of lump, creek coal, delivered. Secretary-treasurer instructed to buy the following: one water pail, wash basin, broom, toilet soap, dust pan, one gallon boiled oil, one pint turpentine, and one coal skuttle.

Tenders to be called for school janitor, part of whose duties would be to supply one pail full of good drinking water each school day.

A. Van Alstyn's tender was accepted.

Jan. 7, 1932: Board to provide pupils with scribblers, pens, and pencils. Henry Smith's tender for delivering

wood to school yard was accepted at the rate of \$1.00 per rick for green wood, and \$1.25 for dry wood.

Jan. 7, 1932: Secretary-Treasurer instructed to write Public Utilities Board asking them to hold application for debentures, owing to school board's inability to pay the fee of \$10.00

Feb. 11, 1932: Miss K. Lake's tender for position of secretary treasurer for the year 1932 at salary of \$20.00 was accepted. Motion made that district join the School Fair Association. Motion lost.

Mar., 1932: Albert Van Alstyne left school and Bruce

Morden hired as janitor in his place.

Apr. 26, 1932: Agreement of sale of school site drawn up between Mrs. R. Dolling and school board. The Board of Public Utilities be notified that the school board wishes to change their former by-law of \$2000.00 to \$700.00 to purchase present building (Morden's) for continued use as school house.

July 2, 1932: Secretary Treasurer to write the School Department for plans and estimated cost and approval to build and partly finish, for the present, a 40-pupil school building.

Nov. 14, 1932: Tender for labour in construction of new school house accepted.

Nov. 19, 1932: Henry Smith's tender for brushing new school site accepted. Also one from Cedric Dolling and Anton Kishewitsch for digging well. C. Lake hired as janitor.

Nov. 30, 1932: Ron Dolling's tender for moving building used as school house back to Mr. G. Morden's was accepted. Note:Ron and Cedric Dolling put the building on sleighs and used 8 horses to pull it across country to the Morden place.

It was suggested that some amount up to \$6.00 be spent for Christmas tree supplies. Later, \$10.00 was allowed

Jan. 21, 1933: Motion made and carried that a resolution be passed by the Board to change the name of the School District from Elrose to one of the following: Avon Moor, Severn, Elmsdale, or Hawkstone. Avon Moor chosen.

Motion made and carried that no more rulers, erasers, or pencils be bought for the school.

Mar. 8, 1933: Motion as follows — That a ratepayers' meeting be called Mar. 25, for the purpose of discussing the raising of funds or closing the school. Also that we write School Department stating clearly the situation and ask for help or advice to meet obligations.

June 26, 1933: E. Lunde's tender for \$15.00 for painting school house was accepted. Paint supplied by Board. Letter to be written to Mr. Squance indicating that the Board will try to make some arrangement in regard to children attending the School Fair.

July 19, 1933: Secretary treasurer to write Miss Barton offering a four month contract at rate of \$500.00 per annum. Mr. Wm. Armstrong's bill of 50¢ for signing school forms be paid.

Sept., 1933: Charlie Lunde hired as janitor, \$4.00 a

month.

Oct. 21, 1933: As Board does not care to hold dance in school house, it was decided to have a Christmas concert in afternoon.

Apr. 5, 1934: A letter to be written to Mr. A. Lottridge explaining that due to the financial condition of the District it would be impossible to join the School Fair Association. C. Lake resigned as Sec. Treas. and Fred Sych hired as a replacement. During the spring of 1934, Miss Barton became too ill to continue teaching, and was replaced by Miss Tina Dyster.

June 28, 1935: G. Lindahl's offer of \$20.00 for labour of putting concrete foundations under school house was accepted as was J. Johnson's for clearing one acre of land, breaking two acres, and disking, leveling, and seeding same to grass for sum of \$18.00

Dec. 7, 1935: School Board still owes Mr. Albin Benson for lumber used in construction of school house in 1932.

Feb. 15, 1936: Annual meeting of ratepayers were informed that, since the District is not of ten years standing, the electors need not be British subjects. Fred Van Alstyne, Sam Lunde, and Ted Myers nominated as a committee to be in charge of arrangements for school fair.

June 23, 1936: A motion made and carried that Board engage a man teacher for next term, a married one preferred.



Teacherage at Avon Moor School built on school grounds by Val Pailer in 1936.

Oct. 16, 1936: Mr. Pailer asked permission to build a house on school grounds. Permission granted.

Nov. 16, 1936: A barn to be built on school grounds dimensions 18' x 24'. (Later changed to 14' x 20'.)

Aug. 22, 1937: Fred Sych's tender for \$40.00 to paint school house accepted. Vivian VanAlstyne's application for next terms janitor accepted.

Nov. 1, 1937: Mr. Merriam's tender for building barn was accepted.

June 20, 1938: C. Libby's tender of \$2.50 for painting barn accepted.

July 23, 1938: Board decided to purchase teacherage

from Mr. Pailer who had built it at own expense. The purchase price to be \$220.00. After buying, the Board would furnish material for an addition to it (6' x 18'). Mr. Pailer to build it.

Tenders to be called for janitor whose duties would be to sweep floor once a day after school hours, desks to be dusted in morning, fire to be started one hour before school time and floor to be scrubbed every six weeks.

Aug. 6, 1938: Vivian Van Alstyne's tender of \$4.50 a month as janitor accepted.

Nov. 24, 1938: Fred Van Alstyne's tender for building a wood shed 10' x 16' accepted.

Jan. 21, 1939: Board decided that Mr. Pailer's wish to keep a cow would be allowed, but with these stipulations; cow to be kept in barn or have it tied in near-by bush, except that during summer holidays it could be pastured in school yard.

Mar. 4, 1939: Mike Pasut's tender accepted for the supply of 88 dry, peeled, sound tamarack posts seven feet long with five inch tops and 12 foot tamarack rails with four inch tops, the delivered price to be 15¢ per post and 25¢ per rail.

Arrangements to be made to transport children to Edmonton on the occasion of the visit to the city of their Majesties, the King and Queen.

Sept. 2, 1939: Hilda Johnson's janitor tender accepted.

Dec. 12, 1941: Last entry of minutes of local School Board meetings. Avon Moor District became part of Strawberry Division #49.

For the school term beginning Sept. 1948, the first school bus route in the area was established. The bus driver was Eddie Alton, who had begun work as a truck driver 24 years previously in Leduc. Later he drove for Alec Riddoch of Calmar and trucked over a large area which included the Avon Moor School District. The route Eddie drove on, was from Thorsby, by way of Telfordville and St. Francis to a road corner 2½ miles north of the Genesee store, and return.

Only high school pupils were transported at first, with the exception that pupils of all grades were taken from the hamlet of Telfordville. Later the road east from Genesee to Telfordville was high graded and within a year or two, was graveled. With the improvement, this road became a permanent part of the route.

The Avon Moor School was closed at the end of the term in June, 1958. Beginning the following Sept. pupils of all grades along the route were taken to Thorsby schools. Pioneer driver Ed Alton drove school bus during the years 1948 to 1972. On retirement, he received congratulatory letters from the Hon. Gordon Taylor, Minister of Highways, and Mr. Clarence Kenway, Chairman of the Highway Traffic Board, on his achievement of driving two million accident-free miles.

Teachers at Elrose school later renamed Avon Moor were, in order: Miss Mary Moroney, Jan., 1932, Miss Elsie Barton, Miss Tyyne Dyster, Mr. Val Pailer, Mr. Wm. Strochein, Mrs. J. Baughn, Alice Belinsky, Mrs. L. Sivertson, Mrs. Eileen Krueger, Mrs. Mary Hunter, and Mrs. Mildred McAllister.

The following served as trustees at various times: George Morden, Sam Lunde, Malcolm Grant, Herb Merriam, C. Lake Sr., Bert Peters, Gunnar Lindahl, Ron Dolling, Norman Merriam, and Wm. Mathews.

Secretary treasurers were Fred Van Alstyne,

Kathleen Lake, C. Lake Jr., and Fred Sych.

AVON MOOR SCHOOL DAYS

(1948 - 1955)

by L.M. Sivertson

In 1948 the Sivertsons arrived at Telfordville, Charles to work for the time being in the fast-developing oil-fields, and Margaret to teach at the Avon Moor School. With them came their children, Raye and Shirley. Daughter Inez was married and living in B.C. They took up residence in the teacherage, and what was to have been a one-year stop-over on the way to the West Coast from Sask., became a seven-year teaching commitment for Mrs. Sivertson and permanent Alberta residence for the family.

The next seven years were happy and productive ones. The school was the central core of a district made up of several nationalities and religions, all of whom co-operated wholehearedly in supporting any activity in connection with it, whether a formal Easter program, summer picnic, Open-House Halloween party or the popular Christmas concerts at which the walls seemed to have to bulge to accommodate the crowds which came from near and far.

In 1948 the first school-bus service began transporting the elementary school children from the Telfordville Valley, as well as all the high school pupils to Thorsby, thus reducing the enrolment at Avon Moor to approximately 35, Grades 1 - 8.

The larger school units had recently come into effect. Even though the local school boards were left



CHRISTMAS 1949 — HOME OF MRS. LULU JOHNSON Chas Sivertson, Mrs. L. Johnson, Mrs. M. Sivertson, Doreen Vaughan, Bert Johnson, Mrs. J. Vaughan, Happy Johnson, Shirley Sivertson, Norman McLarty, Raye Sivertson, Reggie Johnson.

with little real authority nevertheless Steve Palechuk. Clifford Libby and Ted Meyer continued to serve and the school and its affairs were well looked after.

During the early '50s the boundaries of some of the school units were changed. The Strawberry Division lost its identity and became part of the larger Leduc School County. Eventually the school office was moved from Thorsby to Leduc. In the process of moving, many of the school records were lost, unfortunately.

Lack of telephones was a drawback, especially in the case of an emergency, but urgent messages were cheerfully delivered by Post-Mistress June Dolling or store-keeper husband Cedric. The coming of rural electrification in 1954 brought a great change in the way of living. It benefited not only the farmers but the school and teacherage as well.

The community was sports-minded and so was the school. In summer we had a softball team that could hold its own with any neighboring school. One fall the pupils decided that they would like to have a skating rink. Permission received, a small area in the schoolvard was levelled off. Funds were raised chiefly through putting on a dance at the Strawberry Hall featuring the accordionist Gaby Haas who was just becoming known via radio. Rough lumber for a retaining wall was bought from a local sawmill, a tank was hired to bring water from the Strawberry Creek and we were ready to skate. Mr. C. Libby kindly offered hockey instruction during an occasional noonhour.

During these years a curling-rink was built on the farm of Mike Pasut. It was a straw-bale and pole structure and was the joint effort of the entire community. Much enjoyment was had out of it but

MRS. SIVERTSON'S LAST CLASSES



1955, AVON MOOR SCHOOL, GRADES 1 - 8 Back row — Inga Meyer, Lily Simon, Joyce Pasut, Marlene Simon, Harvey Hubscher, Edwin Hubscher.

3rd row — Ervina Simon, Lorraine Hubscher, Sharon Mellick, Melvin Meyer, David Lunde, Wayne Brewster, Gordon Kruger. 2nd row — Stewart Brewster, Douglas Kirchner, Dennis Pasut, Larry Hubscher, Roselyn Simon, Dennis Merriam, John Denschikoff. Front row — Agnes Lunde, Ronnie Hubscher, Betty Merriam, Annie Denschikoff, Evelyn Solila, Reggie Johnson.

eventually it was replaced by a frame building purchased from the town of Calmar and located on another site. Shares were sold on this new rink, some of which may be in existence still.

What with curling, the weekly 500 card party, a square-dance session, bingos and other fund-raising activities for the local schools, socials and dances, the winter months were never dull. Television was almost unknown and people had time to visit. One memorable event for the Sivertsons was the occasion of their Silver Wedding anniversary when the community arranged a surprise party at the school in their honor.

In 1955 Mr. and Mrs. Sivertson moved to Edmonton where they now live in retirement. Inez, married to Art Weberg (now deceased) lives in Victoria, B.C. and has 2 children, Gail and Glen. Shirley married Fred Snider of Thorsby. They have 4 children: Daryl (married to Katherine Weber of Lacombe), Dean, Neil and Lynne. Raye, an Edmonton architect, and wife Barbara (McKinnon) have 2 sons, Ward and Graeme.

VAL. PAILER'S ROLE AS TEACHER AT AVON MOOR SCHOOL (1936-42)

by Val Pailer

My teaching career began at Onoway, for a period of 6 years. I decided to call it quits after the first 6 years, because of heavy class loads (Grade 6 to 11) and

a salary of \$550.00 per year.

Jobs were almost impossible to obtain at this time of the depression. In late August I saw an advertisement in the Edmonton Journal which read "Teacher wanted, Married Man Preferred". We drove to Telfordville and after an interview, Mr. H. Merriam, Chairman of the Board, accepted my application. After signing the agreement we found that there was no place to live for a married man with one child. We drove to places near the school and found temporary housing with Clifford Lake.

Permission was obtained from the school board to build on the school grounds. With the help of the community a house was put together. Because of our limited funds its size was 18 feet by 18 feet. We moved

into our new home in Nov. of 1936.

The Avon Moor School in 1936 consisted of a one-room building on 3 acres. Enrolment the first year was 27 pupils from grades 1 to 8. Grade distribution was: grade 8 - 2 pupils, grade 7 - 4 pupils, grade 6 - 5 pupils, grade 4 - 3 pupils, grade 3 - 3 pupils, grade 2 - 2 pupils, and grade 1 - 5 pupils.

From 1936 to 1940 the average enrolment was about 24 pupils including grades 1 to 8. In 1940, grade

9 was added with 21 pupils in the school.

A temporary set-back occurred in March, 1940. The entire school yard was coated with ice because of

rain and thawing conditions. I was on my way to the teacherage when my feet gave way from under me and I fell and fractured my leg. Mrs. N. Bennett took over the school while I was convalescing.

Teaching continued at Avon Moor until the fall of 1942. In the fall of 1942, I accepted a teaching position in Thorsby. Mr. William Strochein took over at Avon Moor.

This memo to teachers may be of interest:

Strawberry School Divison No. 49 Thorsby, Alberta

April 23, 1942

To ALL Teachers Strawberry School Div. #49

Dear Sir/madam:

Please find enclosed blank requisition forms in duplicate for supplies, one of which when completed is to be returned to this office, the other to be retained in your school for future reference.

Kindly requisition for a year's supply as from Sept. next. Both for classroom and pupil require-

ments.

Other divisions use the following method in estimating: pencil scribblers, 1 per pupil per month, ink scribbler, 1 per pupil per month, Pencils, 1 per pupil per month, Pencils, 1 per pupil per month, Penholders, 1 per pupil per year. Pen points, 2 per pupil per month, chalk, 2 boxes per room per year. The remainder of the items will be supplied according to your requisition but we would ask that you be as **conservative** as possible and estimated as accurately as you can in order to have sufficient supply for the year.

We would appreciate it if you would kindly complete and return your requisition immediately.

Yours truly, W.A. Bradbury Secretary-Treasurer

HISTORY OF THE WALTER BREWSTER JR. FAMILY

by Ruby Brewster.

Walter G.H. Brewster was born on a farm just inside Saskatchewan near Empress on June 25th, 1921. He moved to the Strawberry district with the family in May 1926. He can remember the trip to Leduc by train and how the Holstein bull they brought with them got upset, broke the ring in his nose and forced his dad (who was riding with the cattle), to climb up on the machinery to get away from him. When they reached Weed Creek, Walter saw his first fish swimming in the water; at that time the creek had lots of fish in it. The McFarquars kindly asked the family in to eat and Walter asked his mother if he could eat both the pie and the cake which were on the table.

He attended both of the Strawberry schools, the first one until it was burned and then finished in the

new Strawberry school on its new location. When Walter and Brady, his brother, were big enough to cut wood they earned extra money. One day Walter was resting with his foot on a stump and said to Brady, "I'll bet you 25¢ you won't cut my toe off'. Brady said he would and promptly did. Of course Walter didn't think Brady would, and Brady naturally thought Walter would move his foot. So, needless to say, they had to call on Ted Schubert to take Walter to have it sewn back on. It also meant a new pair of shoes. Boys will be boys.

Walter worked for different farmers and in the saw mills. He also went with Wilfred Johnson one fall to Armena for harvesting. Brady and Walter also worked one winter for a farmer down in the Wetaskiwin district. In the fall of 1940 Walter came to the Edgerton area with his half-brother, George Thomas and George's wife, who was from the district. Walter found work in town and that was when we met.

I was born in Edgerton to Sam and Bertha Groves. My maiden name was Ruby VanAlstyne Groves. When we were married, Walter and I rented a small one-roomed house for \$2.50 a month and then my sister and family moved to Edmonton and we moved into their home that had 2 rooms and paid \$5.00 a month rent. Lyle Wayne was born prematurely on Aug. 4, 1941 and at 6 weeks he topped the scales at 5 pounds.

Walter joined the army on Jan. 26th, 1942 and was sent to Camrose for basic training. In Apr. he was sent down to London, Ontario to be instructed as a motor mechanic. I went to be with him for the 4 months his course was to take. I also had a sister living just outside London. After he had finished his course, he was chosen from a group of men to go south to Fort Knox, Kentucky, to take a special course, on American tanks. When he returned to Canada he was stationed at Camp Borden, Ontario. I staved in London for another year and then moved to a small town outside Camp Borden named Angus. In 1944 Walter had an accident and broke the main bone in the arch of his foot. He was in a cast and on crutches for 9 weeks and stayed in the camp hospital. So, every other day and Sundays, I would walk in to the camp to see him. On Sundays I could take Wayne with me and what a lot of joy he gave to a lot of men who were lonely for their own families.

On July 4th, 1945 Stewart Dale was born in Barrie, Ontario. Walter was to be discharged from the Army in Jan. so I left Ontario right after New Year's with the boys and came west to stay with my parents until he arrived. When he arrived in Edmonton, I met him there and we came out to Thorsby to visit with his family for awhile. After Walter was discharged we went to Bracken, Saskatchewan as Brady was farming there and wanted Walter to join him. We stayed there 6 weeks and helped him put in the crop but Walter didn't like it so we came back here.

We lived for the summer of 1946 in a two-roomed house that Neufeld's owned and Walter worked for

Cliff Libby. Tractors were few and far between so Cliff did custom ploughing and breaking. We bought a quarter of land through the V.L.A. from Cliff, the N.W. 1-50-2-W5. We moved onto it in Nov. 1946. We hired Cliff to work and seed the land in spring of 1947 for \$1250. It was to be our main means of transportation for many years and we threshed it that fall. We bought our first tractor, a W4 International in the fall of 1947. We still have it working in the family. Walter worked out at different jobs to help our income as we didn't have any machinery or animals. We bought a cow which I learned to milk and did milk all summer long, but Walter was going to the bush to work for the winter and that cow could kick "Like a mule", so his dad took it to his place and we were to have whatever milk we needed. After 2 days, he wouldn't milk her, she kicked so badly. No wonder I never lost my fear of kicking cows.

Garry Raymond arrived on the scene on Dec. 30th, 1949. It was so cold that they made me stay in Edmonton at the George Thomas' until it warmed up, which was about 2 weeks.

Farming wasn't very good. We were hailed out in 1947, 1949, 1951 and 1953 and drowned out in 1954. Walter drove a truck for Abe Neufeld in the district. On Mar.22nd, 1952 Bernard Neil arrived. That's when I really found out what it was like to be a farmer's wife: do chores, gardening and all the rest of the work that came with it. By this time we had managed to raise quite a few cows and needed water for them so we tried drilling by Mr. Victor Sandstrom's outfit in the spring of 1952, which proved to be unsuccessful. In Feb. of 1954, Walter drove an oil truck at Camrose for Abe Neufeld. In Feb. 1955 we connected to Calgary Power. What a relief! I could go out and do chores and not worry about leaving the kids alone with a kerosene lamp.

Wayne went to Avon Moor school in 1947 and his first teacher was Mrs. Belinski. She had 9 beginners that year with 41 students to teach in grades 1 to 8. Stewart began in 1951 with Mrs. Sivertson. Garry went to Avon Moor in 1955 with Mrs. Eileen Kruger as his teacher. When Bernard was old enough to start school they had closed down the Avon Moor school in June. The students were then bused to school in Thorsby. This was in Sept. of 1958.

In June 1960, we bought the Lula Johnson farm, the S.W. 12-50-2-W5, and moved there as there was plenty of water. We built a loafing barn and a milking parlour and bought some Holstein cows to milk along with the ones we were already milking. In 1962 Wayne married Darlene Shymanski and they moved on to the south quarter to live. Wayne worked with the Highway Department on the maintenance crew. They moved to Vancouver and lived there until Darlene's dad died and they returned to the farm to help her mother. They still live on the farm.

On Nov. 19th, 1962 I was struck down with a heart attack which was to put me to bed for 3 months and not able to do any heavy work for quite a while. Garry, age



The Brewster Family, 1974. Stewart, Garry, Walter, Ruby, Wayne, Bernard.

Our boys and their wives and children.

12 did all the cooking, Bernard helped with the housework and Stewart helped with the chores. Darlene was there helping also, whenever she could. Thanks to Walter's sister Mary, who did all of our laundry.

On Sept. 4th, 1964 Stewart married Barbara Bilou. They were both working in Edmonton which they continued to do until 1967. They now live in the district on a farm they bought. In 1965 we built a new house and what a pleasure it was after living in the old house which was falling apart. It wasn't finished inside but it had a roof that kept us dry, a level, solid floor and lots of space which we didn't have before.

In 1966 we sold the beef herd as we were milking quite a few cows by now and had a nice herd of Holsteins. We were shipping milk first to Warburg and then to the Thorsby Cheese Factory by cans. On Oct. 4th, 1969 Garry married Rose Ollenberg. He was apprenticing to be a mechanic in Bilar's Garage. They settled in the district. By now, Bernard was out working, too, so that left Walter and me to do all the milking. We put in a bulk tank in Dec. and a tank truck came and picked up the milk. We sold the Holsteins in Oct. of 1972. It was hard to do as we had managed to get a good herd by then but I just couldn't keep up and Walter by then couldn't look after them alone. That fall after a month's holiday, we bought steers and fed

them through the winter and sold them just before we went over to England with Walter's dad in May of 1973. When we came home, we bought cows and calves, some for \$700 for a cow and calf. Beef was high in 1973. In 1975 we sold the same cows with calves for \$250.

On April 27th, 1974 Bernard married Carol Forsyth from Falun. They moved to Edmonton as Bernard was working there as a welder. They now live in the trailer court in Thorsby and he drives to work.

We sold the farm to Dennis and Harvey Hoshowski in 1975 and built a house in Thorsby with the help of the boys. We still live here and Walter is doing cabinet work in Edmonton. In 1977 we made a second trip to England and attended a relative's wedding.

Through the years we have belonged to the Telfordville United Church and Walter is still on the Telfordville cemetery Committee. I belong to the Telfordville United Church Ladies Aid Society. Walter belongs to the Thorsby Legion and I am a member of the Strawberry Red Cross Society. We are both members of the Thorsby Gymkhana Barrel Busters. We now are the very proud grand-parents to ten lovely children and are fortunate to have all our family living close to us.

CEDRIC AND JUNIE DOLLING

by Junie Dolling

Cedric Dolling was born in Calvin, North Dakota but was raised in southern Alberta and later moved to Telfordville.

When the family moved from Empress, Cedric 14 and Ron 5 years older drove their cattle to this district. They had a wagon with their horses tied to it which they used to sleep and eat in. Cedric enjoyed basketball and skating, rinks were the creek and ponds. He was also fond of cards and took in most of the dances.

Junie McFarquhar was one of twin girls born at the McFarquhar homestead. They were the first set of twins west of Leduc. She attended Strawberry, Thorsby, and Garneau Schools; played ball, basketball, music - often chording on the school organ for dances - sang in the choir when Thorsby won the cup at Wetaskiwin the spring of 1931 when Leona Blades was teacher; loved to dance and could do the Irish lilt and sword dance.

Cedric and Junie were married in the United Church in Telfordville by the Rev. MacGregor on June 14, 1934. After the honeymoon they moved to Cedric's log shack on his farm. They both were kept busy with farming; doing custom work and visiting; community work such as being Secretary-Treasurer of Strawberry School; Red Cross; Ladies' Aid; curling and community halls; fair and mutual telephone association; as well as church.

Two children were born to them during their time on the farm, Jeannette and Frank.

In 1946 they sold their machinery, etc., bought the Telfordville store and moved there. Junie became the postmistress and Cedric was the Co-op agent for gas, oil, fertilizer, etc. The store was general and at first there were pool tables to care for. Commissioner of Oaths, registrar, news correspondent, message deliverer, selling veterinary supplies and trucking was all in a day's work. As both Cedric and Junie were good drivers, many folks were taken by them to meetings, hospitals and lakes.



Jeannette Dolling, Graduate in Home Economics U. of A.

They were blessed with the arrival of a little girl in 1949, Wanda. Jeannette played clarinet in the Thorsby Junior Band, and Frank played sax. Mrs. Val Pailer made at least 20 capes in royal blue lined with red. The members all wore wedge caps in matching colors. Joe Babiak was band leader. The band flourished for a few years and was disbanded after its leader moved away and the students finished high school and went on for further education.

In 1962 Cedric purchased a school bus which he operated for 15 years. On March 31, 1969 the Post Office was closed and I was given a 25-year pin though I had been a postmistress for 22 years. I was also given a United Church pin by the ladies' aid group for 36 years service. I then took census, did the R.R. 1 Thorsby mail route and sold Avon products. We have travelled a good many miles and have been to California, east to Prince Edward Island, Boston, Alaska, to the Pacific Coast and around Alberta. We still live in Telfordville in the same house we purchased in 1946. It is a very pleasant place to live as it is snuggled close to the north bank of the Strawberry creek, on a winding road, sheltered from nature's winds. God has been kind to us as we and our children have good health and happiness.



Ice fishing on Pigeon Lake Left to Right — Mike Mellick, Bessie Mellick, A. VanAlstyne and June Dolling.

We have many memories to look back on such as 1934 when we were in Thorsby looking at a set of harness at the Rolston trading store. Mr. Rolston said we could give him a down payment and finish with monthly payments. Mr. Ole Olson was the Case dealer. When he wanted to sell Cedric a threshing machine, Cedric said he could buy only the drive belt. "Take it home" he said, "I know you will pay for it." We went on through the years trading with these men. We went on to buy the second combine in the community, a new M.M. tractor, etc., from Mr. Olson.

We shipped milk first by team and wagon and later by car to Thorsby Cheese Factory. With no power all the milking was done by hand, also the cleaning of the barns and feeding the animals. Cedric was a good carpenter. He built a big home and round roof barn on the farm. We have enjoyed farming again as we farm the ½ section I grew up on.



Back row — Don Skogstad, Frank Dolling, Junie Dolling, Earl Wesa, William Skogstad, Cedric Dolling. Front row — Jeanette Skogstad, Gina Skogstad, Wanda Dolling, Corinne and Lorina Dolling.

Jeannette is Mrs. Don Skogstad and has 2 children, William and Gina. They live in Ottawa. Don is employed with the Federal Government.

Frank has 2 daughters, Larina and Corine, and they make their home in Fort McMurray where he is employed at the G.C.O.S. plant.

Wanda is an accountant and makes her home in Edmonton.

JOHN DENSCHIKOFF HISTORY

related by family

John Denschikoff was born in 1894 in Staropol, Russia, and had seven brothers and one sister. When he was a student, he joined the army and later the navy, and for seven years, he stayed on ship in combat during World War I and was Captain thereafter. In 1928, he entered the United States. After working in a sugar factory in California for three years, John emigrated to Canada, where he met and married Hazel Jarosz.

Hazel was born in Lashka, Poland in 1905, and had one brother, one sister, and seven stepbrothers and stepsisters. Her stepbrother in Canada is John Zaharko, who now lives in Calmar and formerly operated the Sunnybrook General Store. Hazel had her share of tragedies in her early life; her mother passed away when Hazel was three months old, and she lost her sister in 1916 from appendicitis.

In 1929, Hazel emigrated to Canada. She married John Denschikoff in 1930, after a three week courtship. Hazel still recalls, with a laugh, that she met and married John so quickly that she had great difficuly pronouncing and spelling her new name.

After their marriage, John and Hazel settled in the Conjuring Creek district. They lived there for one year and then moved to a homestead five miles northwest of Telfordville. There they had four children: Valentine born in 1936, Tony in 1937, Zena in 1939 and John in 1945. In those days as with everyone, times were difficult and even more so with Hazel and John, with new land and a new language. They discovered their first born developed a hearing deficiency after an injury. For years this created a great problem for the child and for the parents, as there was no one nearby with whom they could consult.

Although John and Hazel experienced misfortune and hardship, nothing stopped them from being the good people that so many came to know. John had one of the first few cars in the Telfordville area; a 1929 Buick. Many times he drove neighbors to Thorsby, and even Edmonton, and their home was open to anyone who needed a bed for the night or a room for a few months. Hazel helped the neighbors as a midwife, nurse, cook or whatever else was needed.

Their nearest neighbor was Bill Walker, who was Rose MacKay's father. One of the most vivid memories of him was when John dug a new well and Mr. Walker's well went dry. After that, Mr. Walker would come and haul his water back home. Two more of their neighbors were Mrs. Grindey and Polly Taylor, whom Mrs. Grindey brought from England to be a campanion. Later on Mrs. Grindey became ill. John and Hazel took her into their home for a few days, which stretched into about three months. All this time, John and Tony would help Polly with the chores and check on her when the weather was bad. In March 1952, the year of the bad blizzard, Polly is believed to have become frightened of the storm and tried to get to the neighbors, but unfortunately she was found frozen in a snowdrift about a half mile from home. Shortly after Polly's death, Mrs. Grindey was taken to an Edmonton hospital where she passed away.

On their homestead, John and Hazel worked side by side clearing the brush, breaking the land, and planting and harvesting the crop. One of the ways they worked and kept their three children with them was to tie a little wagon to the back of the binder. As Valentine, Tony and Zena became tired and irritable, John and Hazel would put one on the tractor and two in the wagon and would keep rotating them until they could not be settled, which usually was late in the night.



John & Hazel Denschikoff --- 1959

In 1943, John and Hazel purchased the William Matthew's farm at Telfordville. They moved onto the property in 1945, when Johnny was three weeks old. In the same year, Tony and Zena, having no knowledge of English, started school at Avon Moor. In 1946, Ann was born.

Tony's and Zena's first teacher at Avon Moor was Mrs. Vaughan, and until Grade 8, they were also taught by Miss Jablinsky and Mrs. Sivertson. During the warmer months, Tony and Zena would walk the two miles to school, but during winter, John would pick up and drive the children (his and many others on the route). Occasionally they would get a lift with other parents. Once when Zena was not in school, Tony was given a ride in the back of a truck. The driver forgot about him, and instead of getting him to stop, some of the boys pushed Tony off. It was fortunate that the truck was not travelling too fast and Tony was not seriously hurt.

Until this time, Val had been a happy child. But, with Tony and Zena in school, she just couldn't understand why she could not attend also. She became a very unhappy child, and in 1946, with the help of Rev. Hutchinson, Mrs. Vaughan and Mr. C. Pyrch, Val was enrolled at the School for the Deaf at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Here she became her own person and developed into a contented happy individual. It was a difficult decision for John and Hazel to make to send their young daughter so far from home, but no school of this sort was available in Alberta. Their judgement proved correct, as Val can use not only sign language and lip read, but also can speak and hear.



Ron & Val Chadney & Family — 1972

Val was married in 1955 and has four children: Julie born in 1955, Terry in 1957, Luba in 1958 and Cindy in 1960. She then married again, to Ron Chadney, who originally comes from Saskatchewan, in 1972. They now make their home in Leduc, and Val is employed by the Parkland Nursing Home.

Tony, being the oldest son, had the responsibility of helping with spring work and harvest. At the age of 7, while plowing with the Cockshutt 70 tractor which had big fenders, you could not see him. Several people stopped and looked to make certain the tractor was

not running without an operator.

Tony proved to be mechanically inclined from the time he was old enough to take things apart. There were not many occasions when he could not put back together what he dismantled. Once when John and Hazel and their three oldest children went visiting to Mr. and Mrs. John Koziol, Tony went into their living room and took apart their RCA Victor radio. In those days radios were scarce and had a lot of knobs and dials and, of course, batteries. When Tony was discovered, John and Hazel bundled up their family and went home red-faced. But given a chance, Tony most likely could have put that radio back together again. Today there is not a piece of machinery or implement that Tony could not dismantle completely and re-install. He was taught at an early age that anything that comes apart can be reunited.

After Avon Moor Tony went one year to Thorsby, but then had to quit because of farming commitments at home. Zena, however, continued her schooling and graduated from Thorsby in 1957. After graduation, Zena's first job was with a real estate firm. After a year, she became employed with an engineering firm as receptionist. She was promoted to secretary and accountant, after completing three months of night school in basic accounting. She took a break from the engineering firm by being employed for a time with an oil company. Later she was secretary and office manager to E.C. Manning, former Premier of Alberta. She then returned to the same engineering firm.



Steve & Lena Pshyk with Bill & Polly Pshyk (Steve's parents) — 1969



Tony Denschikoff family in 1979 L. to R. Back row Irene (mother) Lora, Tony (dad) holding Tara. Front row, Gerald and Kathy

In 1960, Zena married Steve Pshyk, originally from Glendon, Alberta. In 1974, Steve started his own survey company, All-West Surveys Ltd., in Edmonton with Zena as his secretary and accountant.

Tony was married in 1962 to Irene Barager, who is the daughter of Bernard and Ida Barager of Thorsby. In 1964, Tony took over the family farm at Telfordville, with John and Hazel remaining in the yard. They have four children: Lora born in 1965, Gerald in 1967, Kathy in 1969 and Tara in 1977.

Johnny started his schooling at Avon Moor with Mrs. Sivertson as his teacher. When John was in Grade 8, schools were centralized and Avon Moor school was closed, busing all the area to Thorsby. During his school years, John was active in sports and finished Grade 12 in 1962. He continued his education at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, majoring in Aeronautical Engineering. After completing his course at Calgary, John was employed with an oil company at Whitecourt. There he met and married Beverly Ament in 1968. They have two childen: Dean born in 1968 and Christopher in 1974. In 1971, John was transferred to Edmonton, and the family now make their home in Devon. John is still active in sports, namely curling and golfing.

Ann, like John, was bused into Thorsby after the shut-down of Avon Moor. She was in Grade 6 at the time with Mrs. Chranowski as her teacher. She was always very close to her brother, John, as a small child and this carried on throughout their school years and still remains. Ann was always known as a cheerful person who could get along with everyone. This personality has proved consistent over the years, as



John & Bev Denschikoff & Family



John & Ann Knull & Family with Stanley & Ruth Knull (John's Parents) — 1976

her friends are many, and her family keeps in close contact with her.

Ann completed Grade 11 in Thorsby and then enrolled in a secretarial college in Edmonton. She worked in Edmonton for about two years, then met John Knull of Leduc, and they were married in 1965. They have two children: Murray born in 1966 and Lynette in 1971.

It was quite comical, for one of the no's that Ann always had, was that she would never marry a farmer. They live on a farm seven miles from Leduc.

Ann's husband, John, is the son of Stanley Knull, who is a cousin to Herman Knull of the Thorsby district.

After seeing their family all married and living their own lives, John and Hazel lived contentedly on the family farmyard, always waiting for Sunday to come so their children and grandchildren could come and spend the day with them.

John passed away suddenly March 1, 1970. Hazel lives on the family farmyard, still putting in a large garden, pruning her many raspberries and strawberries and looking after her small home. She lives contentedly, enjoying her grandchildren and visiting her sons and daughters whenever she gets a chance.

MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL GELLERT

by daughter Ruth Stern

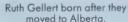
My Dad and Mother were both born in Poland. Dad had his training in the Russian Army and served in it for several years, then he married Julianna Penno. Later, in the year 1913, they decided to immigrate to the U.S.A. where my dad had a brother at Monroe, Wash. They stayed with him a short time while Dad found some work on the railroad and then in a saw mill. Soon they were able to buy a farm which had a small fruit orchard. Dad still kept working at the mill while mother and my older sister and brothers picked the fruit and sold it and did other chores. They also kept a herd of 16 cows and shipped milk, and the milk had to be on a platform for the truck to pick up. If not,



Mike Gellert family in 1928.

Left to Right — Albert August, Louie, Adam, Donald, Father, Mother, holding Henry, Fred, Martha, Sam. Two more children Ruth and Leonard weren't born at that time.







Leonard Gellert, youngest son, born in Alberta.

it would be left. This meant a lot of heavy lifting as a tractor and front loader were not known of. One summer, while picking fruit, mother had the misfortune of falling from a fruit tree and, expecting a baby too, caused her to spend several weeks in bed. Mother did not know of any of the conveniences of our day, and with such a large family as ours, she never owned a motor or electric washing machine.

As years went by, Dad was beginning to fail in health, which the doctors diagnosed as rheumatism. For years he was troubled, and tried every remedy including bathing at Soap Lake and Salt Lake City, but everything failed. Then the doctors advised him to move to another climate and as Dad had a brother in Canada, they decided to move here. In Nov. 1928, with 8 sons and 2 daughters. It was the beginning of winter, and the family found it very cold compared to what they were used to. They moved to the Golden Spike district where they rented some land and began

all over again. In 1930 a brother, Samual passed away at a young age. That same year they moved to the Woodbend district.

In 1932, I (Ruth) was born. They farmed her until 1934. Dad and Mother then bought a farm from Mr. George Hobbs in the Pemberton Hill district (Genesee or Telfordville now). Here dad, along with the older boys, cleared enough land to build a log cabin. Dad and the boys went back and forth with horse, buggy or sleigh from Woodbend to clear this land. In 1935 it was ready for the family to move. By this time my oldest sister Martha was married. That same year their first crop was hailed out completely.

The change of climate did help dad. His health improved and he never suffered from rheumatism again.

In 1937 my youngest brother Leonard was born in the Thorsby Hospital. That same year Dad and the boys were logging, and started construction on a larger house in which we all grew up and had some great times with neighbor children and friends.

My dad and older brother Fred who were active members helped build St. John's Lutheran Church at Telfordville where some of us younger children attended church school and got confirmed.

In July of 1953 my mother passed away suddenly at the age of 63 of a heart attack, and was buried at St. John's. Dad kept on farming. Leonard was only 16 yrs. old then.

In the spring of 1955 Dad married Lydia Dalke of Carnwood and farmed until 1958 when he sold the home farm to my brother Louie and his wife, Rose. Dad and our stepmother bought a house in Thorsby from Mrs. Hulde Johnson and retired to town life, but kept busy gardening and looking after their property.

In 1966 our stepmother passed away leaving Dad alone again to look after his house and garden. With his eyesight not too good, he still insisted on living alone. On April 5, 1970 at the age of 84, he passed away after being ill only a short time with hepatitis. He was also buried at St. John's cemetery.

Most of the family is still living in the surrounding area. Martha married Bob Miller of south Edmonton, now of Leduc. They had 3 children: Lorraine, Phyllis and Kenneth. Lorraine passed on in 1972.

Fred married Ruth Knull and they had 7 children: Norman, Melvin, Ronald, Gary, Marlene, Randy and Violet. (Violet passed away in 1951). Albert married Louise Basch of Monroe, Wash. They have 2 children, Darryle and Denise, still living at Monroe, Wash. August married Lillian Schiewe of south Edmonton and they have 3 children: Carolyn, Muriel and Harvey. (August was electrocuted at Ellerslie in 1957 while operating a road patrol). Adam married Helen Wallman and had one child, Iris. Louie married Rose Schmidt, andthey have 5 children: Elaine, Sharon, Marilyn, Connie and Ivan. Donald married Mary Undo and they have 2 children: Edith and Sandra. Eve married Robert Kruger and they have one child, Gordon. Henry married Ruth Werner of Ellerslie and they have 2 children: Cheryl and Brenda. I (Ruth) married Ray Stern of Medicine Hat and have 5 children: Gerald, Brian, Lorne, Bradley, and Neil. Leonard is still single.

CLAYTON GRANT

by Edwin Grant (nephew)

Clayton Grant came to Alberta in 1908 and homesteaded the NW 34-49-2 W5, which he sold in 1920 when he purchased the SE 34-49-2 W5 from his father's estate. He took a very active part in community affairs, being school trustee in the Port View school district for several years, serving on the



GRANT FAMILY Left to Right — Malcolm Grant, Lillian Lottridge, Clayton Grant, Roy Grant and Fred Grant.

board of Telfordville Community Hall and also taking an active part in district fairs and community sports in the early days.

Clayt, as he was known, sold his farm in 1946 and joined his older brothers, Roy and Mac, in their farming operations until 1958, when the farm was sold.

Clayton and Mac and their sister, Lelia, who had kept house for them after her husband's death in 1942, retired in Thorsby.

Clayton passed away in June 1964.

Lelia Lottridge, his sister, passed away in May, 1964.

THE RUDOLPH (RALPH) HEBNER FAMILY

by Ralph Hebner

In 1917 my family moved from Arnprior, Ontario to Wetaskiwin, Alberta where I went to school, and when I quit school in grade 8 in April, I came to Leduc to stay with my sister and brother-in-law, the Mike Lorentz's, on their farm.

In 1925 or 1926 I worked for Mannix Constuction building the railroad through Winfield.

After that I worked on a ranch at Nightingale, northeast of Calgary for two and one-half years.

From there I moved to B.C. and worked in a logging camp at Horn Lake, first as a chaser (unhooking the logs after they were brought in with cables attached to spar trees) and after that as a high rigger topping trees. During the fire season in summer, I would ride the freight train back to Leduc. Even though I crossed the mountains many times during the thirties, I was fortunate in having to pay the fare only once. The conductor would usually look the other way when we slipped into the boxcars. Because riding the rods underneath the train was dirty and dangerous, I tried that just once!

In 1934 I decided to go farming at N.W. 27-50-2 W5 in the Pemburton Hill district north of Telfordville in Pioneer Municipality. My brother and brother-in-law helped me build a two-room 16 by 24-foot log house. My parents then came to live with me.

On July 28, 1936 I married Elsie Schmidt in Gnadenthal Church near Leduc. Our honeymoom was a trip in a democrat from Leduc to our farm, a distance of thirty miles. It was a very hot day so we stopped for a drink at a widower's place at the top of Weed Creek hill. We had our honeymoon lunch at Weed Creek after watering the horses there. The last five miles to our farm was just a bush trail, no road.

Dad died before Jeanette was born in 1937 but Mother lived with us until her death in 1945. She was a great help to us; with Ethel making her appearance in 1939 and Dennis in 1943 we had a live-in baby-sitter for our three youngsters. Mother looked after the



Ralph Hebner on the right up a spar tree at Horn Lake, B.C.

house also when Elsie worked outside splitting wood, stooking, helping with the hay (especially the stacking of it - by hand) and of course doing chores, which in those days always consisted of milking cows by hand and carrying all the feed and water to the pigs. Elsie preferred to use 5-gallon pails for this.

Along with some hired help, I would work all summer at clearing land by hand, eventually clearing



Ralph and Elsie Hebner on their Wedding Day, July 28, 1936.

Ralph Hebner driving a 6-horse team hauling 125 bushels of wheat.

eighty acres in this manner. The rest was later done with a brush-cutter. The first forty acres or so of breaking were done with a hand plow and a four-horse team. At first I had only two horses so I borrowed two from my brother-in-law, Mike Lorentz. Later my brother Ed gave me two horses. Fred Moeller and Cliff Libby broke some of the remaining land with a tractor and Wally Mertz broke the last forty acres with a cat just ten years ago.

During those early years, Elsie traded eggs for groceries at Moran's store located near by on the northeast corner of a farm presently owned by Adam Hartfelder. This store did not last long, so we again got our groceries in Telfordville or Thorsby. We hauled cream to Billy Breton's store at Telfordville, where a truck picked it up to take to a South Edmonton creamery. Telfordville was also our post-office. It seems a shame that a place like this, providing so many services to a substantial area, no longer exists.

In 1936 we sold our first pigs, ten of them for \$55.00. The three cows that Elsie had been given by her parents included an awful kicker they thought I would be able to handle since I had worked on a ranch. Well, nothing that I did would cure her so we sold her for \$7.35.

What really hurt however, in those depression years, was receiving only 13 dollars and some cents for a 1600 lb. bull in 1938.

Don't get the idea that life was all bad though. People were more neighborly, and we would go to each other's birthday parties, the Kirchners, Mielkes, Schultz's, Knull's, Simmon's, Fred Moeller's etc. Once it was 40 below (F) but we bundled Jeanette up in a feather quilt and drove with the horses to Mrs. Karl Mielke's birthday party. We also took in the dances and picnics at Strawbery Hall and sometimes at Telfordville.

There were many bachelors living in the area in the early years; some of them were Stan Alexander,Otto Simon, Herman and Ted Knull, Otto Schmidt, Ed Simmon, and Adolph Forster. Only Herman and Adolph, married now, still live in the district.

In 1939 my brother gave me my first car, a 1926 Model T Ford. It had no top but nevertheless we drove to St. John's Lutheran Church every second Sunday. When we hit snowdrifts, I'd get off and push while Elsie got behind the wheel and as soon as the car got through the drift, I'd hop over the spare tire at the back, over the back seat, shove Elsie aside, and get behind the wheel again.

One unique adventure with that car took place in 1942 when I was taking two other fellows to Telfordville one night. Suddenly there was one of Otto Simmon's cows (in those days we all knew each other's animals) lying on the road. I slammed on the brakes and clutch but this action had the effect of burning the lights out on those old Fords. We continued on to Telfordville in the dark but waited till daylight before returning.

In 1943 we managed to replace our log house with a frame one, but when we were hailed out in Aug. 1945, I decided to head out for the lumber camps in B.C. again, as I had never really wanted to be a farmer. I got a job on Great Central Lake just out of Port Alberni and Elsie and the kids arrived there in Nov. However, we spent just one winter at this floating lumber camp because it wasn't a fit place to raise kids, with all those drunken loggers around. We headed back to the farm in the spring.

From 1946 - 1953 we lived on the farm and I never mentioned going to B.C. again. During this time our children attended Templeton School, sometimes driving a horse and two-wheeled cart and in winter a horse and cutter.

Even though prices for farm produce had improved, I again wanted to try something else, so we rented a farm near Leduc for two years because the land was better there. Even before the two-year term was up though, I was working for Pete Fenrich in the city, building steps for prefab houses. We moved to Edmonton where Elsie also found work as a custodian at Bonnie Doon High School. Because we moved several times while living in Edmonton, she also got to work at Waverly Elementary, Holyrod Elementary, and Strathcona High School.

In 1960 my employers switched to building prestressed concrete bridges - the Telfordville bridge was built by us. In 1975 we again returned to the farm, this time to retire. During all the years that we had been away from the farm, we had hung on to it by first renting it out to Stanley Alexander and Rheinhold Kirchner and later farming it ourselves (with Dennis's help) on weekends. We managed because at that time we didn't have the prolonged rain spells that our area has been subjected to these last few years.

Life has been pretty good to us. We raised three fine children and they in turn have given us twelve fine grandchildren.

Jeanette married Harry Martinoff of the Morrowdale district and they now live in Ft. St. John in B.C. Their children are: Donna (married to Richard Koziol and living in Mill Woods, Edmonton), Valerie



Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Hebner Family, Jeannette Martinoff, Dennis Hebner and Ethel Riley.

(married to Kenneth Jehn and living near Wetaskiwin), Joyce and Ralph.

Ethel married George Riley and they have a dairy farm east of Leduc. Their children are Orville, Glen, Lynn, and Ruth.

Dennis married Barbara Bablitz and they live on S.E. 27-50-2, a farm near us in the Telfordville district. Dennis and Barbara also have four children: Charlene, Charyl, Carmen, and Durrand.

We have enjoyed traveling in a camper and our several trips have included one to Alaska, two to California, and three to Arizona. This past summer (1978) we went to Vernon, Kamloops, and Ft. St. John in B.C.; Prince Albert, Sask.; Beausejour, Manitoba; Disneyland; and Tucson, Arizona where we watched movies being made and James Garner from Rockford Files doing one of his programs. Although we found the latter interesting and Disneyland fascinating, the trip that both Elsie and I enjoyed most was the one to Beausejour, Manitoba, visiting cousins that I hadn't seen for fifty years.

Thus traveling by camper in summer and going ice fishing to various lakes in the vicinity in winter, we are indeed enjoying our retirement as we always come back to our farm in Telfordville.

HUBSCHER HISTORY

by Mary

In April 1929, Albert Hubscher left Germany to come to Canada to stay with his brother, Emil, who had immigrated 2 years previously. The trip across by ship took 3 weeks. He arrived in Leduc where he met his brother and several uncles, aunts and cousins.

Working together with his brother, Emil, they cleared land on contract, using axes and grub hoes as their only tools. During the winter, he worked for farmers hauling gravel from the river with horse and sleigh and doing general farm chores.

In the fall of 1931, the two brothers decided to go homesteading in the Telfordville district. They purchased a quarter of C.P.R. land and erected a log

house and barn. The few household furnishings consisted of a stove, a few pots and pans and one big suitcase. A table, benches and bunkbeds were quickly nailed together to add to their furnishings. Straw mattresses were made for the bed. They bought several horses and a cow. There were only a few neighbours. Travelling was hard as there were only bush trails with ruts so deep that high wagons barely made it through. The first winter they spent clearing land. They also cut and hauled tamarack rails to Leduc and traded them for grain, flour, or whatever was needed most.

In 1934, Albert bought his own quarter of land, the N.W. 26-50-2 W5. Then in July, 1937, Emil got married to Theresa Saitz. Emil and his wife stayed on the land that Emil and Albert had homesteaded on and Albert moved to his own quarter and set up his own farm. He built a new house, barn and other log buildings; bought several cows and calves and started farming for himself, although they still worked together at harvest.



A. Hubscher's first McCormick combine with some of their children and neighbors' children.

In November 25, 1938, Albert married Mary Kruger. By this time quite a few people had taken up farming. Roads were still quite bad. Mr. Sam Lunde was the only one who owned a tractor and threshing machine and did all the threshing for the farms with farmers helping along. Housewives were usually very busy cooking for the threshing gang, which usually consisted of 11 to 15 men. The first year my husband went away to thresh, I was left alone to do chores, but I had Hilda Kivitt spend the nights with me. One evening as Hilda opened the door, someone hollered out. She slammed the door, dived into the bed, covered herself completely and just lay there frightened. A bachelor neighbor had walked to the corner and picked up our cream can and was just



Fred Smith's truck in ditch by the A. Hubscher gate. It took 4 tractors and lots of men a whole day to get the truck out.

passing when he saw the door open. He had called out that our cream can was at the gate. It took several hours for Hilda to uncover her head.

Money was still pretty scarce, but we made our own butter and sold eggs and butter to the Telfordville store. Our grocery bill at this time was usually around \$2.50. A pound of coffee sold for 25¢, 10 pounds of sugar for 50¢ and flour for about \$2.00 for 100 lbs. Those flour bags, when empty, were used for sheets, dishtowels, aprons and even blouses. I well remember in Sept., 1939, when we shipped an 8-gallon can of cream and got \$5 for it. We thought we were rich.

In July 17, 1940, our first son, Edwin, was born in what was then called the Thorsby Hospital, set up in the Burgess home with Dr. Hankin as the attending doctor. On April 9, 1942, our second son, Harvey, was born in the Misercordia Hospital.

In 1943 we bought our first car and one really had to be good on the gas feed when you had to go through deep mud holes. In the fall of 1944, we sold our car and bought our first tractor, which then doubled as a car. On December 28, 1944, our first daughter, Lorraine, was born in the Misercordia Hospital. A platform had to be bolted onto the back of the tractor so we could all travel together.

Albert did a lot of custom work with the tractor in the spring, while I was left alone with the small children to do chores. Many anxious moments were spent doing chores while the little tots were left in the house. On April 15, 1946, our third son, Larry, was born at home. Then on June 4, 1947, Ronald was born in Edmonton.



Ronald Hubscher, calf hitched to sled pulling Linda and Wesley. Calf's harness made from straps and strings. It actually pulled the sleigh.

By this time, we decided that rather than do custom work, we would rent more land. There were many crop failures and severe hail storms. We were only able to salvage feed for livestock, so in the winter Albert went logging with the neighbours and the lumber was then sold for grain.

On May 30, 1952, our second daughter, Linda, was born in the Misercordia Hospital. In March of 1954, Calgary Power had built the lines, and for the first time we were hooked up for power. No more lanterns to do chores by and no more coal oil lamps to read and sew by.



Road in 1961 before it was upgraded. During spring breakup ¾ of a mile would be like this to Hubschers place.

On April 5, 1954, our fifth son, Wesley, was born in the Misercordia Hospital. One June 17, 1960, our last son, Dale, was born, having the same birthdate as our first son, Edwin, exactly 20 years apart.

Roads at this time were pretty good, but we had 3/4 mile out from our place that was only passable by tractor and wagon during spring breakup and rainy weather. Finally, after much complaining, in 1961 the county built us one of the finest roads in the county.

By this time our children were growing up and rural schools were being closed and larger and modern schools were being built in towns and children were being bused longer distances. New churches were being built but there was none of our faith in the area. We held meetings in homes, but this was not always very satisfactory, so in 1959, we purchased the old Avon Moor School, renovated it and it became the First Baptist Church of Telfordville. A student from the Christian Training Institute, Ben Breitkreuz, was our first pastor. Several pastors and students have served us faithfully over the years. The first wedding took place on Feb. 16, 1962, when Harold Kruger and Mary Woods were united in marriage. On Oct. 12, 1963, our second oldest son, Harvey, married Shirley McKay in this church. To date 6 of our 8 children were married in this small church. In April, 1969, my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kruger, celebrated their Golden Anniversary there. We have had many spiritual blessings there over the years, but the building needed much repair and it was too small. For several months we contemplated what changes to make. In June, 1978, we decided to close our small building and rent the former Covenant Church in Warburg, which had been closed since March, 1978. So on June 24, 1978, we held our last service in the First Baptist Church of Telfordville. On July 2, 1978, we began our services in Warburg with Dan Tidsbury as our student pastor. In August, we purchased the church and parsonage. On September 24, Rev. and



Baptist congregation of Avon Moor in front of William Krugers home.



Farewell for Paster and Mrs. Larry Froese in front of Telfordville Church, Sept. 12, 1977.

Mrs. Joe Harrison moved into the parsonage and became our full-time pastor in Warburg.

Edwin married Ruth Fenske on Aug. 21, 1965. They have 2 children, David and Grace. They have a dairy farm next to ours.

Harvey married Shirley McKay on Oct. 12, 1963, and they have 2 children, Darcy and Shawna. Harvey operates a garage in Edmonton and they live on an acreage near Namao.

Lorraine married George McKay on May 8, 1965, and they have 2 boys, Bradley and Trevor. They have just built a new home on their farm here and are now living here.

Larry married Barbara Quesnel on Aug. 5, 1966, and they have 3 children, Corinne, Sheila and Murray. They live in Edmonton. He works for a water and sewer company, Nikoford Construction.

Ronald married Judy McKay on May 17, 1968. They live on an acreage near Calahoo and have no family. He works in construction.

Linda married John Cox. They live in Camrose and have no family.

Wesley is still single and is living on the farm. He is taking over the farm. Dale has just completed high school and is still working on the farm. He hasn't decided whether or not he will go into partnership dairy farming with Wesley.

In 1976, Albert's sister and husband from Germany came to visit us. This was the first reunion with his family since 1929. Then in 1977, we travelled to Germany to visit the rest of the family.

Looking back over the years of farming, we must say it has been a good rewarding life. We have endured many hardships and disappointments, but have had much satisfaction and many happy times. We raised a large family of 8 children and have many cherished memories that will remain with us forever. We are proud of our family and thank God that they have all established themselves and are all doing well. It has been good for us to have had a small part in helping to build this community.

HERMAN AND BERTHA KIVITT

Written by Lydia Kivitt (daughter -in-law)

Herman and Bertha Kivitt and their two children Hildegard and Henry arrived in Alberta in May, 1929, from Langheim, Germany. That first summer they stayed with Mrs. Kivitt's brother Gus Jahn on his farm in the Calmar area. In the fall of 1929, they moved to a homestead $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Thorsby, which was owned by Mrs. Kivitt's brother Ertman Jahn. They lived on this farm for seven years. Here two more children were born, a daughter Edna and a son Arthur.

To go to school Hildegard and Henry walked a mile and a half to Weed Creek.

In Feb. 1936 they took up a homestead in the Telfordville area S.W. 26-50-2 W5. They moved their belongings with sleigh and hay racks, chasing their cattle behind. When they arrived they stayed at their nephew, Mr. Ed Simon's place. Mr. Kivitt went



Albert and Lydia Rinas, with children Elsie and Ewald, 1929.



Sawing wood at Kivitt's farm.

logging the rest of the winter. In the spring they sawed the logs into lumber to build their house. Mr. Krenz was the carpenter. When the house was finished, Mr. Krenz planted two spruce trees in front of it. He said he wanted to be remembered this way. The trees are still there. The well was dug by hand. It was 18 ft. deep and is still in use today. The land was cleared by hand and broke with a breaking plow and horses. The first crop was seeded with a hand seeder. The hav was cut down with a scythe and raked by hand then made into little piles and later stacked. The first years they sold their livestock and produce at the buying station in Thorsby. The children helped clearing land, picking brush and burning piles, picking roots, raking hav by hand, milking cows and herding cows in summer.

There were many cold winters with lots of snow. Henry remembers one winter when he and his dad had to haul feed from Thorsby, to their farm in Telfordville. On their way home it started to snow heavily and the roads were drifting shut. They had to leave their loads and ride home on horseback. The next day they finally got their feed home.

The children walked $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Avon Moor School. The home was heated by coal and wood stoves and for light they used coal oil lamps. Clothes were washed by hand on a scrubbing board. The children all grew up and married in the Telfordville area. In May 1957 they sold their farm to their son Henry, and retired and moved into their new home in Thorsby. On Dec. 6, 1970 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They resided in Thorsby until they passed away; Herman, May 3, 1972, Bertha, April 18, 1974.

Their eldest daughter Hildegard married Otto Schmidt Dec. 1, 1940. They had three children. Agnes, Mrs. Walter Hildebrandt lives at Looma. Mr. and Mrs. Hildebrandt have three sons and one daughter, Dale, Dennis, Kenneth and Cheryl. Vernon Schmidt married Ruby Miller and they have a daughter Darcy and a son Lance. They live in Devon. Raymond Schmidt married Darlene Budd. They have 1 daughter Raylene. They make their home in Edmonton.

Mrs. Hildegard Schmidt passed away on Nov. 30, 1965. Mr. Otto Schmidt passed away July 9, 1977.

Their youngest daughter Edna married Otto K. Miller on Nov. 8, 1951. They live on a farm in the Telfordville area. They have two sons and two daughters. Audrey was married to William McAmmond on May 6, 1972. They have two children, a son Marshall and a daughter Pamela. They live in Leduc. Wilfred Miller married Gillian Gaulter June 18, 1977. They make their home in Edmonton. Lyle Miller married Cindy DeSmit Oct. 8, 1977; they live in Leduc. Donna is still at home and is in Grade 12. She attends school at Thorsby.

Their son Arthur married Doraine Kirchner, July 18, 1956; they have three children, Lorne, Kathleen and Colleen. They make their home in Sherwood

Park.

Their oldest son Henry married Lydia Rinas on Nov. 27, 1953. They have four daughters, Jean, Wanda and Carol, living in Edmonton and Diane in grade 5 in school. One son David is in Grade twelve.

They both go to school in Warburg.

On a very windy Sunday afternoon, May 16, 1976, fire of unknown origin, destroyed our dairy barn and all milking equipment, 8 calves, hog barn, chicken house, small granary with 150 bushels of barley, 2 cattle shelters and all corrals and fences. With the help of our wonderful neighbors and relatives we were able to save our new house (which we built in 1973) and the rest of our buildings. We were in a state of shock and for a while we didn't know



Henry and Art Kivitt and Mrs. Tracy Hubscher. Built in 1947 and burned in 1976



what to do as we had to milk the cows. We took them down to our neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hubscher. Here they stayed for 3 days. Another neighbor Mr. and Mrs. Fred Quakenbush had an empty barn and milking machine, and they let us use them. Every day, morning and evening we drove 1 mile to do the milking. This lasted till the 12th of August 1976, when we had our new barn finished, and we brought our cows home. What a relief it was to to chores in our own yard again! We built another barn, and a cattle shelter, before winter came.

We could never have gotten all this done, if it hadn't been for our neighbors and relatives who came and helped us. God bless each and everyone of them.

AMELIA AND LUDWIG KNULL

by Ruth Knull Gellert

Amelia (Hartwig) and Ludwig Knull came to Canada in 1901 from Russia. They settled on a farm in the Michigan Centre area where they raised 7 children. Rudolph (born 1884) was the oldest son. After growing up on his father's farm he met Olga Passut (daughter of Pauline (Rackway) and Emil Passut) and they were married on Aug. 27, 1918.

Rudolph and Olga bought a farm west of Gnadentahl and 5 children were born there; Robert, Leo, Hilda, Ruth and Minnie. In 1929 they moved to the Telfordville district.



Hetty and Ewald and Dad Rudolph Knull and his grand-daughter Helen Schmidt.

The quarter section he bought was all bush and had no buildings. Rudolph and his family cleared all of the bush from the land by hand and broke it with 4 horses hitched to a breaking plow. He built all of the buildings from hand hewn logs. During his earlier years he ran the steam engine for the threshing machine. The grain was cut and the bundles stacked in big stacks. The threshing machine was pulle, along side of the stacks and the threshing done. In later years when they had acquired a tractor they used it with the machine and hayracks full of bundles were pulled by horses to the machine.

When the family moved to Telfordville there was no church. The people held Sunday School and church services in their homes for the first few years. In 1936 the St. John's Lutheran Church was built. Rudolph was the main carpenter and all of the men in the congregation helped with the work on it. It was built of logs and in later years was put on a foundation. It is still in use in 1978.

All of the children were brought up in the Lutheran faith and all were confirmed in the church

their father had helped to build.

Robert, (Rudolph and Olga's oldest son) served in the armed forces. When he came home he married Delphine Moxane. They had 3 children: 2 sons and a daughter.



Barnyard at Rudolph Knull's farm — Hettie Massener, cousin Norman Gellert and uncle Ewald Knull.

Their family were, Larry, Brian and Darlene. Larry and his wife Jean have 1 son, Brian and his wife Linda have a daughter. Darlene and her husband Wayne have 2 children.

Leopold (Leo) the second son of Rudolph and Olga married Mabel Goodman. They had 4 children, Janice, Lance, Kenneth and Pamela. Leo died on October 12, 1976.

Hilda Knull married William Schmidt of the Sunnybrook district. They had 5 children, 3 sons and 2 daughters. Their sons Jerry, Russell and Allen live in Red Deer. Daughter Gladys died when 2 years of age and the other daughter Helen is married to Ed Hien and lives in Red Deer. She has 5 children Rocky, Bonnie, Yvonne, Louise and Barbara. William



Bill and Hilda Schmidt and family Gerald, Allan, Russell and Helen.



Family of Fred Gellert
Back row — Randy, Garry, Ron, Marlene Mills, Melvin, Norman and
Parents: Ruth & Fred.

Schmidt died and his widow Hilda lives in Sunnybrook.

Ruth Knull married Fred Gellert and they have 7 children. They live near Warburg on a farm. Their family are Norman, Melvin, Marlene, Ronald, Violet (who passed away at 2 years of age), Garry and Randy. Norman is married and is a plumber by trade. He and his wife Doris have one son and make their home in Thorsby. Melvin works for B & H Homes and he and his wife Marilyn live in Thorsby. Marilyn is employed in the Bank of Montreal in Thorsby. Marlene and her husband Colin Mills have 2 sons and live in Devon. Ronald is a mechanic and he and his wife Debbie have a son and daughter and make their home in Hinton. Garry and his wife Beverly have a daughter. He is a mechanic and they live in Leduc. Randy, the youngest son of Ruth and Fred Gellert is still at home.

Minnie Knull married Bill Solila of the Telfordville district. They had 2 children, Evelyn (who makes her home in a Wetaskiwin nursing home) and Lorne (who lives in Leduc). Minnie died Sept. 26, 1967.

Ewalt, Hetty and Caroline were born to Rudolph and Olga Knull after they had moved to Telfordville. For the first few years the Knull children had to walk 3 miles through bush to school at Templeton. Later they all attended the Avon Moore School.

When Ewalt was grown he decided to remain single and lives in Edmonton at the present time.

Hetty married Ed Massner who grew up in the Dniester district. They now live in Millet but did make their home in Thorsby for several years after their marriage. They have 2 daughters, Donna Forth who lives in Wetaskiwin and Gladys. Gladys married Darwin Morrison in 1978 and they live in Edmonton. Ed Massner has a Ditching and Plumbing business in Millet.

Caroline, the youngest member of the Knull family married Ralph Halladay of the Centre Lodge district. They have 3 children, all still living at home and attending school. Their family of Philip, Brenda and Wesley have travelled around the world quite a bit as Ralph is employed with an oil company and works

overseas. In 1978 they lived in Egypt.

In 1946 Rudolph and Olga Knull retired into Thorsby. He had suffered a stroke and his last 7 years were lived as an invalid because he was paralyzed and speechless.

Olga continued to live in Thorsby after his death in July, of 1950. In later years she went into the Peace Hills Foundation Home in Wetaskiwin and lived to see 5 generations of their family. Olga passed away in the University Hospital. Edmonton on March 26, 1979.



Five generations — Olga Knull, Hilga Schmidt, her daughter Helen Hein, her daughter Bonnie Ratke and baby Glenda Ratke.

BOB AND EVA KRUGER FAMILY

by Eva Gellert Kruger

My husband Bob moved with his family to a farm in the Telfordville district in May of 1932. The roads then were only Indian trails with deep ruts and almost impassable during rain storms. There were few neighbors, the Grant brothers and Mr. and Mrs. George Higham. The Merriam and Lunde families were the ones living not too far away.

Everywhere one looked there was bush and heavy timber. One time a fire started from burning brush piles and went out of control, soon whole quarters of land were on fire. Only a heavy rain finally quenched it, leaving a very ugly scene of blackened and burned trees and stumps everywhere.

In those days every family that moved onto land, built a few necessary buildings and then started clearing their land. It was very hard work as their only tools were axes and grub hoes. Usually horses were used to pull down the trees after the main roots were cut first. It was very slow work, but in tieme several

acres would be cleared and broken, grain seeded and there would be a little bit to harvest.

Bob always loved horses and helped at a very young age. Helping his dad haul tamarack rails to Leduc, driving a team. From on top a big load of rails, he looked so small but did a good job of driving the team.

In those early days there were few fences and the cattle would sometimes roam all over, being very hard to find, especially at milking time. Bob often had to go with his mother or older sister to bring the cows homes and was always curious when he saw something different. There were many large wasp nests, often hanging from low bushes. He always wanted to see what was inside of them but had been warned by his parents to never touch them. However, on one occasion, he told me, he and his sister were chasing the cows home and his curiosity got the better of him so he took a stick and hit a large wasp nest (sometimes called a bee nest). Well, he just stood there long enough for the angry swarm of bees to attack him. Then started screaming and running, and was quite a sight when the stings swelled up.

During the winter they usually rode horseback to the Pemberton Hill School 4 miles away but they took short cuts through the bush. In summer they often walked. Later whn Elrose School was opened it was only one and a half miles to walk.

By this time the community was well settled and there were better roads and lots of improvements visible everywhere. A few farmers had tractors, some even had an old car.

I, Eva Gellert came to Canada with my parents, brothers and sister from Monroe, Washington in 1928. We arrived in Stony Plain where my uncle met us. As we were a large family some of the children stayed with other relatives the first night. It was November when we arrived, and was snowing and



Robert and Eva Kruger Wedding Day

very cold. We were not used to snow and Mother didn't like it at all and wanted to go back.

We finally rented a farm with buildings at Golden Spike. In 1930 we moved to another farm in Woodbend and I started school there. In 1934 Dad bought a farm about 3 miles east of Genesee which was in the Pemberton Hill district. Dad and my brothers built a small log cabin and on a very cold day in January 1935 we moved to the farm. There was bush all around us. In time some land was cleared and more buildings erected. We grew up in this environment.

Later on I met Bob and on March 30, 1943 we were married in the Lutheran Church west of Telfordville. It was a very cold day and a big snow storm struck the night before so the roads were blocked and Bob had to snow plow the roads just before the ceremony. To get to the church we had to go about 9 miles extra because the road (4 miles) to church was badly drifted and we couldn't get through on it. He hoped the ones he opened wouldn't blow shut before the wedding.

The reception was held at my parent's home with the women doing all the cooking and serving. There was no honeymoon trip and we settled on the farm formerly owned by the James Samsons. They had put up all the buildings, which were all of log, a long low house, a barn, garage and a few granaries. When we bought the farm the buildings were all old and badly in need of repairs so after we moved on we had to fix them up.

Each of our parents gave us a cow and calf and we had 4 horses. This was how we started farming, there was only 12 acres of broken land on the farm. I well remember how we looked forward to harvesting our first crop, but it was not to be. We were completely hailed out.



Reception at Robert and Eva's 25th Anniversary. Left to Right — Don Gellert, Bob and Eva, Sally Forster, Grandma Kruger, Mike Gellert.



Seated: Eva and Robert Kruger. Left to Right — Donna, Dot, Gorden and Ken.

Gordon, our son, was born the first year we were on the farm. Money was scarce and our income was very limited so Bob had to go work out. I was left alone quite often with the baby and the chores to do. Often I left him in the house by himself, turning the chairs over so he couldn't climb onto the table. I would open the cupboard doors and let him play with the pots and pans. That kept him occupied for sometime, usually till I had finished the chores.

When Gordon was about 3 years old we had to leave him alone in the house again while we did chores. He played for awhile until something frightened him so he found the key and locked the door and hid behind the stove, finally falling asleep. When we finished working and came to the house we were terrified to find it locked and banged on the door for some time until he woke up and was persuaded to unlock the door. When we got in we were so happy he was O.K. we just picked him up and never scolded him for locking the door.

Gradually we cleared more land and Bob broke it; roots had to be picked by hand but we finally had more land to seed and grain to harvest. We lived on the Samson farm for 10 years in those old log buildings. The roads would always drift shut in winter and in summer when it was wet the ruts were so deep it was hard to drive over them.

Then we decided to sell our livestock and rent out the farm and move to Drayton Valley where Bob was employed by Shirley Brothers as a mechanic. Later he worked for Mannix and after that Bob and Clayton Sherburn rented a garage and operated it for a year. Then Bob went back to work for Mannix again as a mechanic. In 1960 we purchased the former Harold Higham farm and moved to it in 1967. We bought more machinery, some cattle and started farming again. It was difficult after being away so long from the farm to start all over again.

While we lived in Drayton Valley, Gordon finished his schooling and started to work with Bob. It was there he met Dot Anderson and they were married on July 6, 1962. They now have 2 children,



Four Generations Seated — Grandfather: William Kruger, Son: Robert, Grandson: Gordon, Great Grandson: Ken.

Kenneth and Donna. They lived in Edmonton for some time but are now at Entwistle where Gordon has his own trucking business.

We are still farming and it is a little easier. When we bought this place from Higham we bought an unfinished house in Leduc and moved it onto this farm. When we moved here we lived in a little one until we had the new one all finished. We operate a mixed farm. Bob and I are members of the St. John's Lutheran Church near Telfordville and I am a member of the Ladies' Aid. Bob enjoys fishing in his spare time.

ERLING AND MARY LUNDE

by Mary Lunde

Erling came from Norway in 1910 at 2 years of age with his mother and younger brother, Ole. His father, Sam Lunde, had come to Canada the year before.

We both grew up and went to school in the Strawberry district. We were married in Jan. 1940.



Erling and Mary Lunde — in front of honeymoon hotel — Spring of 1940.

Some felt the country was still quite primitive, but we felt it had come a long way. Roads were improved and graded, and most were now on the road allowances. There were mud holes yet and slippery hills, no school buses, T.V., Calgary Power or telephones (except at Telfordville Store). We lived south of Telfordville on SE 26-49-2-W5, in just a one-room bachelor shack until we built our own house in the summer of 1940. Horses were still the power used for farm work. School was 2 ½ miles to the east, the old Telfordville School.

When I was on the way to Edmonton for the birth of our first child, we were driving Erling's dad's Model-A Ford. A mile and a half west of Leduc we had a flat tire, and had to drive on the rim into Leduc. After putting on a new tire, we continued our journey to the Royal Alex to await Lorraine's arrival. A son (David) and a second daughter (Agnes) were born to us while we still lived on this farm.

In the summer of 1950 we sold that farm to the Kilik's and bought the $N\frac{1}{2}$ 2-50-2 W5. The east quarter was known as the old Littleproud place. We built in the small field that had been cultivated since Mr. Littleproud first settled here in about 1902. Another son (Douglas) was added to the family in 1962.



Erling Lunde — Riding Monarch to water, 1955.

We have over the years helped out with community work on hall boards, 4-H, and Ladies' Aid. We are still actively farming now in 1978, with our youngest son still at home.

Our family all attended local schools. Lorraine started school at the old Telfordville School, and attended until the winter of 1950. David started his Grade 1 there too, but at Christmas time we moved so he had to start again at Avon Moor. This was not so far for them to go. Lorraine went by bus to Thorsby when she reached Grade 9. Eddie Alton was the bus driver and drove for many years in this area. David also attended Thorsby later, then went to

Vermilion School of Argiculture for 2 years. Agnes went to school at Avon Moor until Grade 7, when the school was closed and they all went by bus to Thorsby. I'm not sure if this was when Johnny Rovinsky started driving the bus or not, but he also drove for many years in our area. By the time Douglas was nearing school age they started a playschool in Thorsby. This was the fore-runner of the kindergarten they have now. He went to it the first year and then on to school.

Lorraine married Ken Riding and they have a boy, Wesley, and a girl, Heather. They make their home in Edmonton.

Agnes married Harvey Klatt and lives on a farm in the Warburg area. They have 3 boys, Russell, Neil, and Christopher.

David married Peggy (Sulz) Osterlund, and for the first 2 ½ years they lived in a mobile home in our yard. In the summer of 1977 they built a home on their own farm and moved into it before Christmas. They have a family of 4; Tony and Angela are Peggy's children from her former marriage, and Aaron and Jordan are Lunde boys.

Douglas is still at home with us and helping on the farm as well as going to school.



E.A. Lunde Family, 1977.
Douglas, Agnes, David, Lorraine. Mary and Erling seated.



Mr & Mrs. Sam Lunde's 60th Anniversary.
Left to Right — Daughter Karlene, Ted Meyer, Minnie Lunde Daughter, Tom Wigston - Grandson, and his wife Lorraine, Mrs. Ted
Meyer embracing Mrs. Lunde.

This is the autumn of 1978 and it is the wettest on record they say. Very little harvesting has been done, and if it stays this way, many will be feeling some of the hardships of the earlier settlers, shortage of feed for livestock, and shortage of money for payments, as well as being sick and tired of plugging in the mud all fall.

WILLIAM MATTHEWS

by Betty Davies

The Matthews brothers emigrated from Bromfield near Ludlow, Shropshire, England - Tom Matthews in 1898 and William Matthews in 1900 to North Dakota. I don't know what Tom Matthews did there, but I know William - my father - worked on a ranch.

Later my father came to the Leduc area and was guided to the site of his homestead, by Mr. James VanAlstyne, who was the Government Land Guide, on Mar. 17 and 18, 1905. He filed on the S.E. 2-50-2-W5 on Apr. 11, 1905.

In the years prior to the First World War, my father worked the land part of the time and worked away quite a lot too. As with most of the pioneers, money was not very plentiful and the only way ready-cash was available was to go and work away. I know that my father worked for a time at Gleichen in Southern Alberta and also on the Harper Ranch, north of Kamloops. I think he must have worked at Kamloops more than once, because he used to tell of cutting alfalfa all of one summer on the Harper Ranch. He also worked on the High Level Bridge in Edmonton when it was being built.

Just prior to World War I, he was working with a bridge-building gang just southwest of Leduc and had to jump from a falling pile driver, landing on the frozen road on his heels. He hurt his back which kept him out of the army until 1915, when he joined the 63rd. Edmonton Regiment. Later he was transferred to the 5th Battalion and served in England and France. Will Matthews was wounded twice while in France. The second time, the nerve in one arm was severed and he was taken back to London Hospital where they were able to repair the nerve and restore the use of his arm. While in England convalescing, he became re-acquainted with my mother - Ada M. Biggs.

My father returned to Canada in 1918, I believe, and on May 7th, 1923, my mother arrived in Calgary and they were married that day in Calgary Cathedral. They came to the Telfordville district and lived in the log house my father built when he homesteaded. They lived there until 1927 when they built a new house on the site where the present owner lives. Betty, the only child the Matthews had, was born in 1928.

My mother played the organ in the United Church in Telfordville for many years. Mrs. Fred Grant was organist when my mother first came and she and Mrs. Grant shared the job. I remember when I was young, my mother went early to the church to start the fire on

winter Sundays. My mother also belonged to the Strawberry Branch of the Red Cross and the Ladies Aid of the Telfordville United Church, as well as teaching Sunday school.

Just when, I don't know, but sometime after the war, Will Matthews acquired the south west quarter of section 2 through the Soldier Settlement Board and he farmed this land until his death in June 1943.

In 1944 John Denschikoff purchased the land and in 1945 Mrs. Matthews and Betty moved to a house in Telfordville where Mrs. Matthews lived until her passing away in Jan. 1969.

Betty married Bob Davies of Leduc in 1961.

William and Ada Matthews were true pioneers, two of the many who helped develop the Telfordville district.

Tom Matthews came to Leduc approximately the same time as his brother and worked at the old Waldorf Hotel when the Acher family owned it. I don't know just when he went to Australia, but he spent some time in Australia. The last few years of his life were spent in Leduc and he passed away in 1932 at his brother's home at Telfordville.

MIKE AND BESSIE MELLICK STORY

by Mike and Bessie

We were married in a church in Edmonton on July 30, 1935. We moved from the Calmar area Aug. 4, 1935 to a farm in Telfordville which Mike bought in March, 1935 from Mrs. L. Johnson (N.W. 6-50-1 W5). We had a team of horses pulling a wagon loaded with a stove, cream separator, tub, washboard, 1 sad iron, pails, bedding and bed etc., and a dozen chickens. We took turns chasing 4 cows behind the wagon with the help of our dog Rex. There was a two-room house which we fixed up and called home for 14 yrs. plus a leaky log barn, a roofless hen house, a well and 30 acres of cultivated land, which was seeded to barley in the spring with the help of brother John. On Aug. 15 we had a killing frost and all that was left was some straw.

On June 10, 1936 our first daughter, Shelby June, was born with the help of Dr. Hankin and Mrs. McFarquhar. During those early years, we cleared land with an axe and grub hoe, breaking it with a walking plow pulled by 3 horses. In 1937 we bought our first car, a 1931 Model A Ford, with mica windows, canvas top and a rumble seat which sure beat the horses and wagon when going to town.

On April 4, 1940 our son Rodney was born in the Thorsby Hospital that was operated by Mrs. Burgess. After 11 days stay in the hospital, Harry Melesko offered to bring us home in a buggy as the roads were too muddy for the car. Everything was fine until we came to the McFarquhar Hill. The heavy spring run off had cut trenches and ruts across the road 2 to 3 ft. deep in half a dozen places up the north hill. Bessie and baby waited at the bottom of the hill while Harry



Three generations in 1939.

Mother Mrs. Mary Bogus, her daughter Georgina Medisky holding
Tina Medisky. Left — Annie Mellick, Bessie Mellick, 2nd row —
Christine Kuzio, Walter Mellick, Millie Hucklak, and Shelby Mellick.

walked the horses and buggy to the top of the hill, then came down again to carry the baby, with the mother hanging on to his arm for support to walk up the muddy hill.

The winter of 1943 was very cold with lots of snow. Around Christmas we noticed that Rodney didn't look well, so we took him to a doctor in the city. After a few tests in the hospital, we were told that he had an acute case of leukemia. He passed away Feb. 14 at the age of 2 yrs. 10 months.

We farmed with horses till the spring of 1944 when we bought our first tractor from Alex Riddock,



Sawing crew, Bob Grant, Ellery Shilson, Bill Hoshowski and Mike Mellick, Aug. 1958.

International Dealer in Calmar. It was on steel wheels because those were war years and rubber tires weren't available. The full price for this new tractor was \$1232.00.

In 1946 we bought another quarter of land from Pete Donaldson (S.W. 6-50-1-W5).

Our second daughter Sharon Ann, was born Aug. 9, 1944 in the General Hospital, Edmonton.



Mike and Bessie Mellick Family Left to Right — Mike, Bessie and daughters Shelby Moeller and Sharon Bruce.

Shelby went to Avon Moor school from Grades 1 to 8. Her first teacher was Mrs. Jennie Vaughan. Then she went by bus driven by Eddie Alton to the Thorsby High School, where she graduated in 1955. On Oct. 15, 1955 she married Melvin Moeller of Genesee. They have one son, Michael, born Sept. 22, 1967. They live in Edmonton now. Shelby is assistant manager in the Toronto Dominion Bank and Melvin does long distance hauling.

Sharon also went to Avon Moor School from Grades 1 to 7. Her first teacher was Mrs. M. Sivertson. Then she too went by bus to Thorsby High School where she graduated in 1961. She married Roger Bruce of Bawlf on Oct. 15, 1966. They have 1 son Collin, born Dec. 3, 1977. Sharon is a legal stenographer and Roger is Bank Manager of the Toronto Dominion Bank. They also live in Edmonton.



Sharon (Mellick) Collin and Roger Bruce, Christmas, 1978.



Melvin, Shelby (Mellick) and Michael Moeller, Christmas, 1978.

We farmed till the fall of 1974, sold out to Nigel and Germain Smith, bought a house on 55 St. in Thorsby and are still living here as of 1978.

KARL AND EMILY MIELKE FAMILY

by their son Bernard Mielke

Karl and Emily Mielke came to Canada in 1925 from the Ukraine. They had one son, Bernard. They settled in Dominion City, Manitoba for 2 years, working for farmers to pay back the fare money.

While working for an English farmer, Dad was told to cultivate a field bordering a garden. Not knowing what rhubarb was, he proceeded to cultivate everything. When the lady of the house discovered what had been done she was very upset. Not able to make him understand her language, she expressed her frustration by flailing her arms and using many words. Because of the language barrier Karl was totally puzzled until he learned about rhubarb.

While they were in Manitoba their daughter Katie was born.

In 1927 they came west to Leduc, to friends they had known in the old country. They rented a farm house for \$5 a month, and worked around for farmers clearing land.



Mr. & Mrs. Stalknecht and Mr. & Mrs. K. Mielke plucking turkeys on the farm.

Then in 1929 they settled in the Thorsby area on the old Fred Gunsch place. They had with them their 2 children, a horse and buggy and 1 cow. This is the farm that Arnold and Elsie Scheetz presently own and live on. Dad worked for the neighboring farmers such as Deneve, Joe Martin and Bill Green. He cleared land for \$5 to \$10 an acre.

Another daughter Phyllis was born here.

When 1931 came they moved west to a quarter of C.P.R. land SE 17-50-2-W5 and took with them 1



Sunday get-together of Karl Mielkes and neighbors.

horse, a buggy, 2 cows, a couple of axes and a grub hoe. He paid \$10 down on the land which was solid bush. They had to pay \$45 in back taxes to get this quarter. Its value was \$1600 with 5% interest. With a lot of hard work we managed to survive, even if the going was rough. That first year we broke 10 acres, and altogether a total of 100 acres was cleared by hand.

In 1943 we bought our first tractor, a 1530 IHC for \$500.00. About 1952 we bought another quarter of land for \$5500.00 with 80 acres cleared and livable buildings. All the buildings we had had were from logs

which we had cut ourselves.

In 1959 Dad sold the farm to me (Bernard) and he and Mom built a new house in Thorsby and retired. In 1967 they moved to Leduc and settled into the home they still live in.

They have lived together for 53 years and are thankful to God that they have been granted these years together. Dad will be 83 in April, 1979 and Mother was 77 in Dec. 1978.

I, Bernard, married Evelyn Hartfelder and we

have 3 sons: Allen, Keith and Terry.

In 1972 we established a hog farming business on the home place. We decided to sell out in 1973 and settled in Thorsby and farmed from town. In February of 1975 we sold the house and bought 240 acres just north of town. It was the old Burgess place, the site of the former Thorsby Hospital which Mrs. Burgess operated. The hospital was torn down but one building still remains from that time. The Burgesses had planted spruce trees along their driveway and they remain, though the drive is not in use now. We made a new one to accommodate modern machinery.

Our son Allen married Cindy Bathelt of Thorsby and they have a daughter Jill. They are presently living in a mobile home on the yard of our farm. Keith is about to graduate from Thorsby High School and

Terry is still enjoying his school days.



Karl Mielke family, 1966. Standing, Phyllis Rinas, Bernard and Katie Hartfelder.



Bernard and Evelyn Mielke and Terry seated. Standing are Keith, Cindy and Allan with their daughter Jill.

We can thank God that we live in a land of plenty and are so much more fortunate than many in other countries.

The daughters of Karl and Emily Mielke are married and have families. Katie, the oldest daughter, married Adam Hartfelder and they have 2 daughters: Bernice and Linda. Bernice married Melvin Meyer and lives in the Telfordville district. They have a family of 2: Melanie and Shaun.

Phyllis Mielke married Robert Rinas and they have 3 children: Barry, Doug and Connie. Barry is married to Lorraine Kelm.

THE CARL MILLER FAMILY

by their son Otto K.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller immigrated to Canada from Poland with their 3 children, Oscar 7 years, Otto 2 years and Olga 8 months old, in the year 1929. With them were Mr. and Mrs. Adolf Readner. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Readner were sisters. The Millers went to stay with Mr. and Mrs. Adams in the Nisku district and were there for a few months. Then both families went to stay with Mr. and Mrs. William Workun in the Calmar district.

Here Ertman was born and Mary, a first child for the Readners. When asked about this now, Mrs. Readner said, "It worked out fine, our babies were about a week apart, so one mother was able to help the other with household duties".

Mr. Miller and Mr. Readner worked for Mr. Workun and other farmers in the district, picking roots for 50¢ a day and \$1.00 a day for pitching bundles at harvest time.

Mr. Miller bought himself a team of horses from Pete Workun for \$30.00, after working there for less than a year. Mr. Miller and his brother-in-law bought a farm together in Pemberton Hill district. First thing to



Back row — Ertman Miller, Adolf Readner, Otto Miller, Adella Miller, Oscar Miller, Olga Miller. 2nd row — Henry Readner, Mrs. Readner, Mary Readner, Mrs. Carl Miller, Carl Miller. Front row — Adella Readner, Lily Readner, Louise Readner, Walter Miller and Edward Hartfelder.

be done then was to build a house, so they went to work to clear a spot with axes. Trees that were cut down were used to build the house. They finished the upstairs of the log house well enough to move into and moved from Workuns to the new home with horses and wagon and a hayrack. Their possessions consisted of 3 beds, a stove, 3 chairs, some bedding and clothes, a few chickens, 2 cows and their 3 horses to pull the wagon.

It was April and the roads were very bad. A quarter of a mile from what is now our turn off to Telfordville, a wheel broke off our wagon and my dad had to go to a farmer and borrow a wheel so we could go on. When we got about a quarter of a mile from the new home, we got stuck in the mud. It was so bad the horses could not pull us out. As it was night time by now, we walked the rest of the way, taking the cows and horses, arriving about 12 midnight. Next morning there was about a foot of snow but we managed to get the wagon and other possessions home. Both families lived upstairs about a year until the rest of the house was finished. The two families lived together for 3 years, then Dad bought his own farm from Jess Grindy.



Carl Miller family, 1939. Left to Right — Carl Miller, Walter, Mrs. Miller, Olga and Ertman. Back row — Oscar and Otto K.

Another son, Walter was born and in 1942 this farm was sold to Bill Hobbs. The folks then bought a farm in the Telfordville district from William Lottridge and moved onto it. They farmed there until 1954, then sold it to me, Otto, and they retired into Leduc. After a few years of town life they decided to buy an acreage in Onoway and go pig farming. They did this for 5 or 6 years and then retired into Edmonton where they still live.

The farm they had and is now mine is the NE 24-50-2-W5. Mr. and Mrs. Readner remained on the original farm until they decided to retire and then moved to Edmonton. He passed away in 1978.



The Carl Miller family in 1958.

- 1. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller are, Oscar who married Adella Wollenberg have 2 children. Adella passed away in 1976. Oscar has his own school bus and drives it and lives on an acreage near Edmonton. His family are, Leonard Miller of Edmonton who is married and Mrs. Hertha (Miller Patterson) of Edmonton.
- 2. I married Edna Kivit and we operate the farm as a mixed farming set up and have a half section of land. We have 4 children; Audrey, married to Bill McAmmond and lives in Leduc. Wilfred, is married to Gillian Gaulter and lives in Edmonton. Lyle married Cindy DeSmit and they live in Leduc. Donna, our youngest is at home and in her last year of high school in Thorsby.



Otto K. Miller family Left to Right — Donna Miller, Wilfred, Lyle and Audrey McAmmond. Parents Otto and Edna on 25th Wedding Anniversary, Nov. 1976.



Otto K. Miller's sleigh.

3. Olga Miller married Alfred Hartman and they have 3 children. Their family consists of, Gary who is married and lives in Leduc. Myles is married and lives in Devon. Olga and Alfred were divorced and she married Norman Johnson who died later on. She is now Mrs. Brian Holm and lives on a farm in the Wetaskiwin district.

4. Ertman Miller married Helen Holt and they have 3 sons; Wayne is married and lives at New Sarepta, Norman; Dennis; Ertman and his wife all reside in

Edmonton.

5. Walter Miller married Barbara Bedford and they have 2 children. Randy and Debbie of Edmonton. Walter and his wife reside in Edmonton and he and Ertman own the Miller Oilfield Hauling Co.

Note: Leonard Miller died in May, 1978.

THE DAN MILLER FAMILY

related by Otto Miller

After Carl Miller had been living in Pemberton Hill district for awhile he sponsored his brother Dan and family to come over from Poland. They arrived in August 1939 with 7 children, Arnold, Otto, Erna, Ed, Walter, Hazel and Lydia. Mr. Dan Miller's first wife had died in the old country and he had remarried there.

They came to Carl's place and later bought a farm about 2 miles north. Their first child Reinhold died when only 14 days old. Other children born to them were, Hilda, Hertha, Elsie and Leonard. After farming for several years they retired into Thorsby about 1959. Dan Miller passed away in Dec. 1976. His widow continues to make her home in Thorsby.

Their family's history is as follows. Arnold married Dora Bittner and they have 7 children and make their home on a farm in theis community. Otto uses the initial D. to keep from being confused with me, also Otto Miller. He married Erna Kwast and has 3 children, Lilly, Larry and Allan. He and Erna also farm in this district, as does his son Larry and family. Erna married Leonard Deviert. They have 2 children and live in Vancouver, B.C.

Ed, the fourth child of Dan, married Delia Relling and they had 7 children. Ed founded the Ed Miller Construction Co. in Edmonton. He died in Aug. 1974 and his sons carry on the business.

Walter Miller married Olga Lutzias and lives in Wetaskiwin. They have 3 children.

Hazel, the sixth child of Dan, married Albert Vaglio and lives in B.C. They have 3 children. Lydia is Mrs. Larry Rosenthal and lives in the U.S.A. They have 2 children.

Hilda, daughter of Dan and his second wife, married Gerald Gatske and they live at Pibroch. They have 4 children. Hertha Miller married Don Moser; they live in Edmonton and have no family. Elsie, youngest daughter of Dan Miller, married Phil Stachniak, have one child and they live in Spruce Grove.

Leonard Miller married Debbie Moeller and they had 2 children. Leonard passed away in May 1978. His family lives in Edmonton.

An older daugher of Dan Miller came over from Poland in later years. Her name was Emma and she married Ed Middlestadt. Her sister Erna, married Leonard Deviert. They have 2 children who all live in Vancouver, B.C.

JOHN NAPRAWA STORY

by Emily Naprawa

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tomas Jablonski with a family of 6 from Empress, Alberta, landed in Leduc on Oct. 25, 1925. They came out to settle on a farm in the Thorsby district, though at the time there was no town of Thorsby.

In 1926 it was so wet in the fall that my dad had a wheel 12 feet in diameter built that he set the whole binder in to cut the grain with horses. He then had to haul the grain over 20 miles to Leduc with horse and wagon.

My dad, Tomas Jablonski, got \$10.00 for naming the Thorsby paper the Western Messenger in a contest for a name for it.

On May 7, 1930 I (Emily Jablonski) married John Naprawa and went to live on a farm in the St. Francis district. We had only 2 dollars to our name and lived in a little log house. We had 1 cow and 3 horses. I cut the grain that fall and John set up the stooks. When we finished our crop, John went out to binder other



Mr. & Mrs. E. Naprawa, holding George, 1932.



Mr. & Mrs. John Naprawa on their 25th Anniversary.

peoples crops. That winter he went out west to cut down trees to make rails for fences, which he hauled to Leduc to trade for more horses and a heifer. The first winter we were married, while John was out west, I had to go into the bush and chop down trees and carry them in and cut them up for firewood.

The next year was better for us, because John was able to go out and make money by breaking 145 acres of land for the neighbors. He walked behind a plow drawn by 3 horses. In April of 1931 our first son, George was born. While John was breaking, I would walk 3 miles, carrying George, to see how

things were going.

As the years went by John worked for other people when he wasn't working on our land. At that time I was feeding pigs and milking cows besides raising our family which by then had grown to three (2 girls, Genevieve and Marjorie and our oldest boy, George). Around this time we bought some new horses and got one bad one. He was like the rotten apple in the barrel. One Sunday morning when we were going to hitch our horses to the wagon to go to church, the horses ran away and tipped over the wagon. We caught the horses and hitched them to the stoneboat and went to church with the kids anyway.

A couple years later we were able to build our barn. As we struggled along we were raising more cattle and milking more cows. At this time we thought we were making big money when we got \$2.50 for an 8-gallon can of cream, or 6¢ - 10¢ for a doz. eggs, and \$5.00 - \$5.50 for a market size pig. Wheat sold for 25¢ a bushel and oats for 12¢ a bushel. We couldn't afford to buy coffee then, so we browned barley by putting it in a pan in the oven and roasting it for several hours, and had to stir it often and add chickory to it for coffee.

Though times were hard we stuck it out and by 1940 things were getting better and we were able to build a big new house. By this time Harold and Ernie were born increasing our family to 5 children.

Things seemed to be going reasonably well and in 1942 Roseline became our first child born in the new house.

But in January 1946 tragedy struck, while I was carrying our seventh child, our oldest son George met with an accident while tobogganning on Telfordville hill and died soon after. Twenty-three days later Eddie was born filling that gap in our lives.



Naprawa family
Back row — Edward, Harold, John, Ernest and Genevieve.
Front row — Annette, Mother, Marjorie and Roseline.



Genevieve and Roman Sopel and her parents in front of Sopel home in Sept. 1954.

Our oldest daughter Genevieve married Roman Sopel on Nov. 23, 1949. It was a beautiful day, and no one had to wear coats.

In 1951 we were blessed with our last child, a baby girl, Annette, born Aug. 24th.

In Nov. 1955 Marjorie, our second daughter was married to Mike Senio. Harold in June 1958, married Doreen Sobon. Roseline in Oct. 1963 married Dave Buchak. Ernie married June Fryk in Feb. 1966. Eddie married Linda McAmmond in Mar. 1967.

After Eddie married we left the farm and moved into Thorsby. My husband passed away on Jan. 11, 1968. This left me alone with Annette. She became a hair dresser and works at this profession now. She married Terry Adam on July 16, 1971.

As I write this in Sept. of 1978, I have 25 grand-children and 5 great-grandchildren. This makes for a real houseful for the holidays. I am a very active member of the Thorsby Senior Citizens Club, now that I am alone.

RAINES (McALLISTER) MILDRED

The first of Sept. 1957, I started teaching in the Avon Moor School, which was about 18 miles from my home. When the roads were good, I drove the distance every day. When mud, ice and heavy snow prevailed, I stayed in the little teacherage in the school yard.

When I taught at the school, there were only grades 1 to 6. The older children went by bus to Thorsby, so it was the easiest school I had taught. There were only a little over a dozen children in

attendance. Mrs. Hunter was the preceding teacher. The behaviour and the work of the pupils spoke well for her.

Memories come back of a little boy who could not let his mother go, the first day; of a grade 2 girl reading stories in a grade 6 reader and of a grade 6 girl who was almost a perfect student.

There were the usual parties at Hallowe'en and Valentine's day and a program at Christmas. Last of all, we had the picnic which closed the school year.

Because of living out of the community most of the year, I did not get well acquainted with the people but enjoyed my contacts with them.

In the spring Mr. Pyrch wanted to have the school closed at the end of the school year. The people told me that they would try to keep it open if I would like to come back the following year. I told them that because of the distance from my home, I would prefer to get a school closer to home. The following year the school was closed.

DANIEL SCHMIDT FAMILY

by Daniel Schmidt Jr.

In June 1929 my parents, Daniel and Carolene Schmidt, left Romania with a family of 6 children, ages 16 to 2 ½: Carl, Bill, Eva, Dan, Rose, and Anne. We landed in Quebec in September, then we travelled by C.P.R. from Quebec to Trochu, Alberta, to Uncle John Gotte's farm and staved there. Dad and the 2 older boys went harvesting in the district to earn money. Later we came to Thorsby corner to a cousin, Mrs. Emil Simeral (farm presently owned by D. Smith). The family intended to settle in the Thorsby area. Misfortune struck in the spring of 1930 with the death of our mother. Our dad took his family to the Fruitland area, where he rented the old Fruitland School. The family lived there for a few years, working in this area, clearing land and doing farm labor. My sister Eva married Albert Gunsch. The 2 oldest brothers went out working. Carl joined the army and, after returning from service, married Yvonne Coutier. Bill went farming and married Hilda Knull, Rose married Russ Joblinski, and Anne married John Siedel.

When we came to the Thorsby area I was 13 years old and went to school for a short time at Progress School, my teacher being Mrs. Hale. Then, when Thorsby started a school in the community hall, I went to school there for a short time. Miss MacDonald was my teacher. I then went back to finish school at Fruitland where Mr. Rostrom taught. At age 15 I worked for local farmers and later in Thorsby for Jack Coleman as a carpenter's helper. One of my many jobs was putting in the first cement sidewalk in front of John Rolston's store. Later I joined an elevator construction crew, building an annex on many elevators throughout the province.

Times were hard but we still had many good times - like when Bill Bilou and I went to a birthday party in the winter. We drove across the field and upset the cutter. We all went rolling out into the snow, birthday cake and all. One other time Bill and I walked to the Strawberry dance. I had to carry him across the Strawberry creek because we only had one pair of boots.

I went north in the summer of 1939. I left Cooking Lake on a float plane, piloted by well known pilot Mr. Fox. I flew to Fort Resolution where I worked for 18 months without leave in the logging camp owned by Mr. Bobby Port. After a short stay at home, I hired on with Ingram Brothers at Edmonton. Returning to Resolution, we hauled pipe across Great Slave Lake to Mills Lake by cat trains during the winter of 1941 to the spring of 1942. While working at Mills Lake I had the opportunity to fly with the famous bush pilot, Wop May. From Mills Lake, I was transferred to the maintenance crew at Fort Simpson Airport.



Dan and Emma Schmidt's 25th Anniversary.

I came out in 1944 and married Emma Wolerman on December 14, 1944. We moved on to a farm in the Telfordville district where we are still living. I went to work for Yellowknife Coal Company Ltd., strip coal mining in the Genesee area for that winter. We built the first coal tipple in Warburg to load railroad cars for shipping coal to Edmonton Power.

In the spring of 1945, we put in our first crop and were hailed out 100% in July. I went back north for the winter working once again on the cat trains, then came back to work the farm in the spring and have farmed there ever since.

In November of 1945 our daughter, Carol, was born. Our son, Wayne, was born in May of 1947.

Having lived in the district many years, numerous things come back to mind, such as neighbors helping each other through good and bad times and building the first curling rink - the idea coming from Ted Meyer, Herman Knull, and myself on the way home from a farmer's bonspiel at Thorsby where we were playing on a team skipped by Cedric Dolling. The fastest way to build one for the least cost we decided, was to build one of straw bales. Many good times were had curling.

The children attended Thorsby High School.



Schmidt family

Left to Right — Front: Dan Schmidt, Pam and Grandpa Wolman.

Middle: Curtis, Carol, Dennis. Back: Emma, Dan, Chris.

Fore front: Darlene and Wayne.

In October of 1964 Carol married Dennis McKee who is employed by A.G.T. They have 2 children: Pam born in 1966 and Danny born in 1969. Wayne, a journeyman plumber, married Darleen Schmidek in 1967. They have 2 sons: Chris born in 1972 and Curtis born in 1974. Both families reside in Sherwood Park.

WOOD, TYYNE (DYSTER)

submitted by Miss Tyyne Dyster, teacher at Avon Moor school during 1934-36

I arrived in Telfordville to substitute for Miss Elsie Barton, a school girl friend, who was teaching at Avon Moor School at the time. She was ill and wished to take some time off to visit her doctor in Edmonton. She had hoped to carry on and finish the term and her contract but it became too difficult, so she asked me to come to help her out. Since I didn't have a school that year, I was glad to go. I boarded with Mrs. Blood and shared a room and bed with Dorothy Reeves who was working for Mrs. Blood at the time. I walked to school with Dora and Reggie and got a ride to church on Sundays with Mr. Tupling.

Elsie's condition had worsened so badly that she was immediately hospitalized and in less than a month she passed away and I was left to carry on for her. I

returned in the fall of 1935 and quit teaching in 1936 when I married Cyril Wood and left the teaching profession to become a farmer's wife, the duties of which I knew nothing but was willing to learn.

We spent the first year on the Grindey farm with Clarence Johnson to help us, while Mr. and Mrs. Grindey spent the year visiting relatives in England. When they returned, we moved to the Burton place which had been the Pemburton Hill post office only 2 years before and we stayed there 4 years. During this time we boarded 2 Templeton School teachers - first-Miss Doris McConnell and later Miss Margaret MacDonald.

When I first arrived at Avon Moor, I learned that the school was expected to take part in a school fair in the fall at Valley View Hall a few miles south of Moran's store. I knew nothing about school fairs, though I had been teaching for 3 years north of Edmonton, where I hadn't heard about these fairs Anyway, we submitted what we could get ready in the short time we had to prepare. We didn't do too well on the school work but Donald Morden won the trophy for his fine Shorthorn calf which he had raised himself, groomed and trained for the show ring.

Fair day was a miserable day, which started with rain that turned to heavy wet and freezing snow before we had travelled half the way there. Mr. Lunde took me and the school exhibits which I had mounted ready for display, along with 2 or 3 pupils as passengers in his democrat drawn by a team of horses over a muddy road. In the back of the vehicle he had a show pig in a crate with a canvas cover to protect it from the weather. I don't know about the pig, but Mr. Lunde, the children and I were frozen. Since we had a little time to spare, Mr. Lunde decided we should stop at Monssons to warm up before going farther. Mrs. Monsson welcomed us warmly and had us take off our shoes and stockings as well as our wet coats, etc. She brought each of us a pail of hot water to which she added generous spoonfuls of Keen's dry mustard. While we soaked and thawed out our feet and dried our coats, she coaxed hot coffee into us to warm our insides. Not one of us suffered even a sniffle though we were chilled to the bone. Thank you, Mrs. Monsson.

After the harvest was finished that first fall, Mrs. Morden invited me to Sunday supper to meet the orchestra of which she was pianist. Hugo Johnson played the violin and Gordon Bentley the drums. There were a few other young people there and we organized a glee club or choir of sorts. With 1 or 2 practices during the week, usually at Morden's, we learned popular songs of the day and a few old folk songs which we sang at Telfordville Hall dances during the supper intermissions at midnight. We called ourselves the "Happy Gang" borrowing the name of the popular radio group under the leadership of Bert Pearle to which Tommy Hunter and Tommy Common belonged. Later as our repertoire grew and we became more proficient, we added little funny skits

and short plays to our program and were a truly happy lot. Our most ambitious endeavor was singing the old ballad "Sweet and Low" in 4 part harmony. Mrs. Grant gave us some help and direction with this number as well.

Then there were the rare occasions when Mr. Samson came to the dance. During the intermission, he could always be counted on for 1 or 2 Scottish folk songs or his favorite Harry Lauder tunes, which he sang so well, providing his audience with a rare treat indeed.

Yes, I have very happy memories of a city girl in a rural setting, first as teacher and later as a farmer's wife.I learned to love farm life, even though the depression made life harder than usual. We made our own entertainment and shared and learned from our neighbors how to manage on less. We grew big gardens and canned everything that would keep in sealers, for we had no power or freezers. Neighbors and friends helped me can vegetables from the garden and fruits in season. The sealers were always full - as we used the vegetables and fruits, we re-used the empty sealers again to can meats and made our own pork-and-beans. Though we never saw much money, we set a good table and managed very nicely, even curing our own hams and bacon. All this I learned and more, though I couldn't boil water without buring it when I married Cyril. I even raised a little runt piglet which was cold and more dead than alive when Cyril found it one blizzardy morning. Cyril wanted to eliminate it, but I begged him to let me try to save it. He was in the house till the weather warmed up enough to put him outside and then he slept in the dog house with our 2 dogs and 5 barn cats. They made quite a parade each morning when they followed Cyril in from the barn with the milk. After a warm breakfast and rest in the porch, they all went out again for the day. It was a busy but contented happy life which I enjoyed for 5 years but had to give it up when my mother passed away and I was needed at home to keep house for my father and 3 younger sisters. Cyril got a job with Canada Packers where he worked in different departments for the next 22 years till he passed away in 1964.

WILLIAM WALKER

By Rose Walker McKay

My father, Mr. William (Billy) Walker, my mother, and sister May came from England in the early part of 1910. He worked for awhile, at Elmore, Saskatchewan, where I was born.

Then we moved to Kamloops, B.C., where Dad worked the next winter. I was only a baby then. I suppose it must have been hard for Mother as she told us it was very cold that winter. Then we came to Alberta, just north of Calmar where we stayed for over a year. Dad worked on a farm there.

In the meantime he had met Mac Grant and Mr. Grindy, who later would be our neighbors. He found out from them about homesteads further west. They already had theirs about 4 miles north west of Telfordville. Dad filed on one too, and we moved out here about 1912. Dad had built a log house, which we lived in for a number of years. It was very comfortable. He then built a new house further up the quarter on a higher spot. May was sure handy with carpenter work, so she helped Dad a lot, as well as on the field, working with the horses and machinery.

May had started school at Calmar. Here she went to Templeton School, about 2 ½ or 3 miles north west of home. That's where I started school too, when I was 7 years old. That was the age to start in those days. We rode horseback, both on one horse at first, until I was big enough to handle my own. We walked sometimes, when the horses were being used in the fields.



Mr. Walker hauling wood from brush.



May and Rose Walker in front of old house.



Harry and May McKay beside their first car.

Dad had to work out a lot of the time to make a go of it, as there was no income yet from the farm. Mother and May and I even tried to help later on, clearing the land for grain. So much hard work! Dad had to go to Leduc for groceries and to take wheat in to trade for flour. I remember going along once in the sleigh. It was sure a long trip with horses. We went to Telfordville when it built up a store and post office. We went to Thorsby after that, first with horses.

Mother passed away in 1930. She was only 52. She had worked so hard. May was married earlier that year, to a neighbor boy, Harry McKay, who, with his mother, dad, sister and brother came from England. They lived in Edmonton for awhile, until they homesteaded here, on the next quarter to ours. Four more children were born out here in Alberta. I married the brother Alfred (McKay) in 1933. We had 3 children, son George, daughters Shirley and Judy. George married Lorraine Hubscher. They have 2 boys, Bradley and Trevor, who are now going to Warburg School by bus, as they live here now on my dad's farm that we had from him. We have given up farming, and have our own little plot of land.

Shirley and Judy married Harvey and Ron Hubscher, brothers of Lorraine. Shirley and Harv have a boy and a girl, Darcy and Shawna. Shirley and family live at Namao Ridge Estates, Namao, north of Edmonton, and Judy and Ron at Calahoo, north west of Edmonton, both on acreages. Shirley, Judy, Lorraine and Harvey all graduated from Thorsby School.

May and Harry had one son, Ed. They were living at Creston, B.C. Harry passed away a few years ago at the age of 71. Harry and Alfred's sisters Elizabeth McDonnell and Kate Simon are living in Creston too.

Mr. Walker passed away at the age of 84 and was still in fairly good health and still his cheerful self. He had been a very active man. He and Mother helped as much as possible with community work such as church, picnics and fairs, with articles of sewing (which Mum was very good at), and flowers and vegetables.

There was a basketball team at Telfordville which May and I played in with quite a few other girls our ages. We really enjoyed it.

Centre Lodge



Centre Lodge School

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The First Homesteaders and Grants to the C.P.R. and the Hudson Bay Company

The Information on this map courtesy of: Alberta Provincial Museum and Archives and Alberta Government Map Division School Pistrict No. 4403

CENTRE LODGE SCHOOL #4403

by Gwendolyn Ross

The cash book for Centre Lodge school district begins with dates in 1929 and accounts in it show that O. Nyberg was paid \$20.00 for digging the well. S. Fostvelt received \$25.00 for work done on the school grounds. For rope, staples, cribbing the well, and nails he was paid \$13.00.

An advertisement placed in the Edmonton Journal in 1930 advertising for a teacher cost \$1.60 and Mrs. Jean Rogers applied and was hired for \$995.00 for the year. She was the first teacher at Centre Lodge.

In 1932 J.M. Arthur installed lightning rods on the school at a cost of \$60.00. Tom Dublanko supplied 15 cords of firewood for \$45.00 and later Julius Bergstrom brought 15 cords more for the price of \$21.00.



Centre Lodge School: teacher Miss Edith Callaway 1933-34. Back row:
Julia Archewski, Millie Archewski, Vernon Stellmaker, Walter
Dublanko, Ethel Peterson, Alec Dublanko, Glen Wickstrom, Edgar
Peters. Second row: John Halladay, James Peck, Hardwig Elgert,
Florence Halladay, Erna Elgert, Mildred Halladay, Elsie Ratz, Gladys,
Halladay, Ida Ratz. Front row: Paul Neuman, Ewald Elgert, Johnny
Switlyk, Harold Halladay, Richard Halladay, George Dublanko, Eric
Neiman.

Miss Edith Callaway was hired as teacher in 1933 and that Christmas the school board gave her \$10.00 to buy Christmas treats for the pupils. She was hired again the next year and was paid \$525.45 in salary. In 1934 she was given only \$5.00 for Christmas treats.

The school was designed with an apartment over it for the teachers to live in. It was quite attractive and cosy. A side door at the front entrance of the school opened onto a small hall with a stairway leading upstairs. At the top were two rooms, the kitchen faced south with a nice window. The other room faced north to the road and opened onto a little balcony. The walls and ceiling were kalsomined (a finish that preceded present day gyproc) and they were painted.

Miss Callaway's parents lived about 7 miles away in the Dniester district and she rode her horse named Dixie to school much of the time. When the weather became too cold or too wet she lived in the teacherage. It wasn't very comfortable either, in extremely cold weather and in the summer months it would be uncomfortably warm in the evenings.

In 1935 Miss Iva Smith replaced her as teacher and she was paid \$646.75 in salary. In 1937 Arnold Kisser



Centre Lodge School pupils in 1947.

supplied the school with 25 cords of wood for \$62.50 Miss Anna Moyer was hired at a salary of \$694.40 in 1938.

In that year a new well was drilled by W.R. Trathen at a cost of \$81.00. Miss Moyer continued teaching there until 1941 when Mrs. Pearl Stashko replaced her. Orvis Ayres was paid \$6.60 for bringing 2 tons of coal to the school in 1940. An old furnace had been purchased and was installed in the little basement under the school. Miss Moyer found the equipment and school in fine condition when she began teaching, indeed it was much superior to the older school she had taught in the year before.

Miss Leona Medisky, another local teacher who had grown up in the Thorsby district was hired in 1947 and a series of teachers followed her. They were, Mrs. Sam Wickstrom who was the former Anna Moyer, Mr. R. Spacinsky, Miss F. Magnusson, Miss Lawson, Mr. Wallace Newton, Miss Blanche and Mrs. Hugh Campbell. She taught from 1950 to '54 and was replaced by Miss Rosalind Byrtus.

Some of the teachers boarded at homes in the district. Mr. and Mrs. Julius Bergstrom, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Peck and the L.C. Ronalds homes were some of the boarding places. A piano was added to the school's equipment sometime during the years and proved very welcome to both teachers and students.

In 1954 Mrs. Mildred MacAllister was hired as teacher and she remained until the school was closed



Car mired in the school entrance in June, 1954.

in the spring of 1957. The pupils were then bussed into Thorsby to school.

During the years the school functioned, many pupils walked long distances to attend it. Some walked 4 miles and in wet seasons they had to dodge water holes and follow fence lines. The roads were terrible in spots; often children would fall into water holes and be soaking wet before they reached the school or their homes.

After the school was closed it became the Centre Lodge Community Centre and has been used by district residents for community activities since.

Anna Wickstrom and Anne Bergstrom both served on the executive for 2 years, followed by Mrs. Annie Macaulay as president and Mary Polok as secretary-treasurer. When the Macaulays moved to Wetaskiwin, Gloria Klatt was asked to replace Annie as president. This position she has held ever since.

There were as many as 22 members on the membership roll in the first year of the organization. It is much smaller now, since many of the members have moved away. We are not as active as we once were, but we still look forward to our meetings once a month.

THE CENTRE LODGE COUNTRY CLUB

by Mary Polok

Mrs. Arthur Halladay invited ladies to her home on the evening of February 8, 1956 to organize a ladies' club in the Centre Lodge district. All were in favor of having such an organization and agreed to meet the next month to elect an executive.



The 70th birthday party for Arthur Halladay in Centre Lodge Community Centre.

The first president was Mrs. Arthur Halladay and Mrs. Verlie Macaulay was secretary-treasurer. The name chosen for this organization was Centre Lodge Country Club, which was suggested by Mrs. Annie Macaulay. Meetings were held on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month.

The purpose of this club was to assist others in need. To raise funds, raffles, bingo, card parties and bake sales were held. Lunch was also sold at auction sales if the opportunity arose. We also enjoyed quilting parties.

Flowers and cards were sent to the ill or the bereaved, and silver spoons to the new babies. The club even gave a small reception for a newly-wed couple in the district. Donations have been given to other charitable organizations as well.

The club members gave freely of their time and effort in helping to get Centre Lodge School established into a community centre by painting, papering and some remodelling.

THE ALEX AND HAZEL CHRUNIK FAMILY

by members of her family.

Hazel Dool came to Canada in 1927 as a young girl of 15. She had left her birthplace in Europe to find a better life in Canada. For the first 2 years she lived with her mother's family and learned English.

In 1929 she married Alex Chrunik, a farmer in the Weed Creek district. His farm was about 5 miles directly south of Thorsby and in later years a highway was built along the west side of it. This highway ran to Pigeon Lake and was the main road for a great number of travellers in the summer.

Six children were born to Alex and Hazel - Bill, Elsie, Mary, Olga, Patricia, and Eddie. The older ones attended Centre Lodge School. When the country schools were closed a bus picked up the younger ones and took them to Thorsby to school.

Life on the farm was hard and there were few conveniences. In time Alex's health failed and they sold the farm. The children had grown up and Hazel and Alex retired into the house they had purchased in Thorsby. Unfortunately Alex was not able to enjoy the easier life in town for long as he died in 1971.

Hazel remains in their home and keeps busy with her home and garden. She has always been interested in sewing, crafts and flowers. She does many types of needlework, makes fancy ornaments, and raises a beautiful variety of flowers around her home during the summer. She was always an excellent seamstress and has sewn for many people over the years.

In 1978 her home is a pleasant place for her children and grandchildren to return to from their homes in various parts of the province.



Alex and Hazel Chrunik and their family.

ANTHONY & MARY CIESLINSKI

by Jean Hanas

Anthony arrived in Canada in the spring of 1912, as a young lad with his parents. They landed in New York, boarded a train which took them to Winnipeg, and then on to Edmonton where they spent the summer months. From Edmonton they moved to the farm of Grandpa Archiszewski in the Morrowdale district. A short time later they filed on a homestead in the Morrowdale district for which they paid \$10.00. Living was a very tough struggle.

Anthony attended the Dniester school shortly after it was built. Mr. Ross Annett was the first teacher. A young man then, he felt the hard times the same as the early settlers around. Therefore, if eggs and milk were plentiful on the Cieslinski farm, Anthony would take them to school for Mr. Annett. He got 10¢ for a 10 lb. syrup pail of milk and 4¢ a doz. for eggs. He walked 4 miles to school carrying the milk and eggs, through bush and sloughs. One day he froze his feet, forcing him to stay home for 2 weeks.

In May, 1978, Mr. Ross Annett surprised Anthony by visiting him, but neither recognized each other. Anthony was 76 at the time.



Anton Ceislinski with wife Mary & daughters Elizabeth & Jeannie.

From Morrowdale, the family moved to Centre Lodge, where they bought a quarter of land. Due to hard times, Anthony left the farm and went out working. He traveled to Windsor, Ontario, and obtained a job in the Ford plant. There he met Steve Radowits. Anthony stayed there until 1930. With a few dollars in his pocket, he came home. Then he bought 2 quarters of land from the C.P.R. at \$6.00 an acre. He was very proud of himself now that he had 2 quarters of land. On the northwest quarter, there was a sawmill built several years before Anthony bought it. The tamaracks were all gone and just the stumps were left standing. The farmers from near and far hauled their logs to be sawed. Some farmers came and took the slabs with which they covered roofs on the outside buildings.

Anthony started to clear a yard site so he could build a house. He built a log house and barn as logs were plentiful where he was building. Anthony cleared a large amount of land. He had 2 cows and 1 pig. He bought a brand new 1939 Chev. He found farming and housekeeping was too much. He met Mary Horutko of the Telfordville district who, with

her parents, had moved to the district from Camrose. They were married in July, 1939. Mary helped alongside him, be it field work or yard work, and that improved farming a lot.



Anton Cieslinski stooking oats, 1946.

During those years there was some good and some bad. Some years there were good crops, and some were poor due to drought. One year they were hailed out completely. Threshing season was a jolly time - the men were very eager, going from farmer to farmer with an outfit owned by Thomas Peterson. He had 6 teams, and 2 field pitchers with him every season. Many times the threshing took 3 days at Anthony's place. The men seemed very happy. Come dinner time, the men hurried home, some whistling, some singing, they fed the horses and hurried to get washed. Mary had prepared delicious meals, besides milking cows and looking after 2 children. Some women had kitchen help, but not Mary. The threshing season was over and the farmers had to hurry to catch up with fall work.

During the winter the farmers had another chore. They had to haul and pile trimmed trees into large piles on the yard and get them sawed into wood for burning in the kitchen stoves. They also went from farmer to farmer with Mr. Herman Knull, the sawyer.

There were 2 daughters born to the family, Elizabeth and Jean. Elizabeth attended the Centre Lodge, Pipestone, Sandholm, and Thorsby schools. She graduated from Thorsby school and attended McTavish Business College in Edmonton. She worked for R. Angus before her marriage to Ivan Schmidt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schmidt, now of Edmonton. They have 2 boys, Reginald and Randall. Both attend Thorsby school. They operate a dairy farm.

Jean attended Pipestone, Sandholm, and Thorsby schools. After leaving school she obtained a job with the Alberta Government Telephones in the Thorsby office. Jean married Sofronie Hanas, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Hanas of Thorsby. They have 3 children; Steven, Lorraine, and Katherine. They live in Drayton Valley where the children attend school. Sofronie and Jean own and operate a welding shop in Drayton Valley.

Anthony's health failed forcing him to retire (approximately in 1968) but he enjoys living on the farm with town conveniences. They do a lot of traveling. They were in Hawaii and traveled extensively throughout the United States and British Columbia.

GORDON GREEN AND FAMILY

by Gordon Green

Gordon Lester was born February 20, 1907, to Frederick Bernard and Evangeline (Russel) Green, in the Bonnie Glen district. Children born to this couple were Charlie, born Feb. 27, 1894: Florence, born June 23, 1895; and Edgar Lawrence (Bob) born March 23, 1900. These 3 were born in the States. Bernard born April 21, 1903; Ivy Bertha born May 20, 1905; Gordon, 1907; and Victor Stanley born November 28, 1911 were all born at home in the Wizard Lake area.



Florence & Gordon Green with Ivy & Stanley Green.

Evangeline passed away in 1913. On April 28, 1915, Fred married Constance (Connie) Littlewood. From this marriage were born Conrad, Dec. 15, 1915; Cema, 1917; John, February 1, 1919; and Ruth, October 1923. This huge family was raised on the farm NE 32-47-27 W4.

I got my schooling in the Bonnie Glen, Porto Bello, Conjuring Lake, and King Edward schools.

My dad, Fred, helped build the Canyon Creek School in 1910. In 1913, Dad bought a steam threshing machine and did a lot of stack threshing as the ground had to be frozen.

In 1918, Fred moved his family of children, Gordon, Stan, Conrad, and Cema, to Wetaskiwin where he took any carpenter work available. I was 11 years old and it was the first time I had ever seen a town, a car, or a train. What a surprise!

Fred was away from home most of the time. In 1921 the family moved back to the farm in the Wizard Lake area. I helped on the farm or worked out.

I remember the first dollar I ever made. A few boys drove a herd of cattle from home to Millet in 1922. We had to walk all the way as there were no roads or any trucks. This took 2 days. We got dinner and supper with a bed for the night for 75¢.

In the summer of 1923 I got a job herding sheep near Wetaskiwin for \$15 a month. From this time on I worked away from home. In 1928 when Dad (Fred) bought another threshing machine, I operated the threshing machine around home for him.

In 1928 he also bought a breaking plow and I plowed around home for \$4.50 an acre. I remember breaking land where the Bonnie Glen gas plant now stands. Threshing and breaking was my major employment until 1937 when Dad sold his equipment. For the next 4 years I worked at anything available.



Gordon Green cutting grain, 1928.

My first car was bought in 1927. I purchased a Ford for \$25. In those days you didn't need a driver's license, or insurance, and gas was 25¢ a gallon.

In November of 1942, I joined the army, getting my basic training at Grande Prairie. From January to September of 1943 I was stationed at Camp Borden in Ontario. In the latter part of September 1943 I went to England, France, Holland, and Germany, where I did my fighting. In Germany I was wounded. I received shrapnel in my back when the jeep I was in was bombed. I was taken back to England where I was in hospital for a few months. In February of 1946, I returned, arriving in New York, from where I travelled for 2 weeks before arriving in Calgary. When I arrived in Edmonton I was hospitalized for 2 months.

In June of 1946, I married Millie Shymanski of the Glen Park district; whom I met in 1939, while threshing for her dad Peter Shymanski. We were married in Edmonton. It took a long time to reach the Shymanski farm as it was raining hard and there were no gravel roads. The wedding reception was held outside with the dance in the barn.

We rented a farm in the Centre Lodge district. Allan Lawrence was born March 9, 1947.

In 1948 we moved to Leduc where I became employed with the Moberg dairies. I was employed there until 1949 when we moved out to our farm at SE 1-48-1 W5 which we bought for \$2,300. I farmed and drove school bus to Patience for the next 3 years. In 1951, May 23, Eileen Marie was born.

In 1953, I farmed and worked on the oil rigs which took me away from home to Leduc, Bonnie Glen, and Drayton Valley.

On February 27, 1954, Robert David was born into the family. I farmed and worked on the oil rigs until 1956 when I quit working out. In 1961 I went to work again for 2 years. In 1962 I quit working out and went full time farming.

On July 1, 1966, Allan married Josephine Dawnise Grace from Sundre. They reside in Thorsby with their 2 children. Allan has been steadily employed on the oil rigs.

On August 23, 1968, Eileen married Henry Saubak and they reside on a farm near Warburg with their 3 children.

On August 30, 1975, Robert married Linda Campbell and they reside in Calgary where Robert works for Merland Explorations and Linda works at a craft warehouse.

In 1977 I retired from farming and now am enjoying the outdoors.

MR. & MRS. ARTHUR HALLADAY written by Olive Halladay in May 1978

My father-in-law, Richard G. Halladay, a widower from Lyndhurst Ontario, left his five children with relatives and came to Alberta in the spring of 1903. His two oldest boys, Arthur and Conrad, joined him in March 1904. In October 1905 he took up a homestead and settled on N.E. 12-48-1 W5, in what later became known as Centre Lodge district. At that time it was a wild country with only trails and swamps. They drove oxen to Leduc or Wetaskiwin for supplies. Willow posts were cut and hauled in exchange for groceries. When they wanted to visit someone they went on horseback.

In 1906 Arthur took up homestead S.W. 12-48-1 W5. It was all trees and swamp so he cancelled it and got his homestead rights back. I still have these papers.

In 1910 Arthur took up homestead S.W. 16-48-1-5. Later on he cancelled it. He said, "It's so swampy, you can't walk a horse on it."

In the meantime, my father-in-law had sold his homestead to Bill Dublanko. Walter Dublanko now owns this quarter and lives on it. Then around 1912 he bought N.E. 3-48-1-5 from C.P.R.

In 1912 my father-in-law went to Wetaskiwin and married a former school pal from Ontario. Her husband had died and she had a teenage son who stayed in Ontario. He died later. I have been told that she was a great hand for helping the sick and was midwife to many as there were no doctors near. In 1918 they went back to Ontario.

Arthur and I had been pen pals through Primrose Club of the "Family Herald" for three years. In the fall of 1920, after helping with the harvest in Sedgewick, he went to Brandon, Manitoba, to see me, "Olive Miller". He spent a week with us and we were married in November. My dad took us to the train in Brandon and we came west to Alberta. I had been in Edmonton when the first World War was on--winter of 16-17. I had come up to stay the winter with my aunt whose husband was overseas. I had fallen in love with Alberta. The winter was lovely! You don't get winters like that in Manitoba.

Well to get back to my story-we had to change trains at Regina and one other place in Saskatchewan. We got into Millet at about 5 o'clock in the morning. We got a ride with the mailman from Millet to Patience. There we changed and got a ride with George Mulligan who was mail carrier then. We got to Mulhurst after six o'clock. I stayed overnight with Mr. and Mrs. Mulligan who ran the post office. Arthur walked the eight miles home. It was the first week in December and the lake was frozen over. Mrs. Mulligan's daughter Ruth and some young people were going skating. They asked me to go but I was too tired from the trip. Arthur came back the next day with a team and buggy to get me.

Things were sure a change from Brandon, Manitoba. There were log houses, crooked trails and heavy timber. Our first house was about 10' x 12'. It was made of logs and had a slant roof. He built on to it, raised the roof and put two rooms upstairs in 1922. The first winter we had canvas over the front window. It seemed to keep the cold out but let the fresh air in.

The neighbors put on a dance at Harry Macaulay's place. Everyone was friendly. They called each other by first names. It was years before I could put first and last name on the same person.



Pioneer home of Arthur Halladay family with children, John & Gladys, 1924

Just before Christmas, Buzz (Albert Macaulay) got himself a Ford car. He asked Arthur and I if we wanted to go to Leduc with him to do some Christmas shopping, so we went along. As we drove along I though we were going to bump into the trees. I was glad when we got back home. His driving was O.K. but the roads were so crooked it seemed as if there was always a tree in front of us. Soon after this we went to Springhill School, which was one mile north of Mulhurst, to a Christmas Concert which was very nice.

Arthur had an Edison phonograph with a round cylinder. There were some nice records of old songs. We had a cast iron stove with fire hearth on one end and reservoir on the other. We did not need a heater with only one room. Our well was dug by hand, and was about ten or twelve feet deep. We pulled up water with a rope and pail. There were two creeks across the C.P.R. that were running at that time. Bridges had been built for crossing over. The cattle used to run at large in those days as there was very little fencing done. One time Arthur spent two days hunting for cows. He found them near the north end of Pigeon Lake at Fisherton Post Office. In summer, if you worked in lumber camps, you made a dollar a day. In winter you were lucky if you got your board and room.

Nearly everyone around the lake fished in those days. Some would take their catch and peddle it in town or to farmers away from the lake. The first year we were married, I would go with him. I had never seen that kind of fishing. One day when I was helping him run the net I slipped into the basin hole. Lucky for me he was close enough to grab me and pull me out. It was a cold day in January so I ran three or four miles to

our home. Arthur hurried to put the rest of the nets in and then figured he would catch up to me, but I had beaten him home. He said, "You sure must have travelled!" Another day when we were out on the lake fishing, a heavy fog came up. Joe Macaulay was out fishing near us. As we started home we came up to Joe. He said we were going in a circle. Arthur didn't believe him so Joe told us to go on while he stayed in the same spot. Joe was right. We had made a circle and had come right back to Joe. Then we all started for home together. This time we made it O.K.

We were on the C.P.R. land for ten years. In that time we had five children. Arthur cleared seven acres of land. All had to be cleared with axe, saw and the help of horses. It was all heavy timber except for the hay meadow. Then Arthur got a chance to buy the eighty acres we live on now from Russel Wagar for \$800.00 and a few head of cattle. After we moved, a sixth child was born. Our oldest boy was 9 years old when Centre Lodge School was built. It opened in the fall of 1930.

In 1935, my sister in Brandon wrote asking us to go back home to run the home place which was 3 quarters of land! Our stepmother had died and left our father alone with an invalid brother-in-law. She thought with our family of six we would be better off as we only had eighty acres at that time. So we shipped our cattle, pigs and horses down in February of 1936. The children and I took the train. Arthur came a week later on the freight train with the stock. We spent only a year there. It was so badly dried out that we did not even have enough garden to last until early fall. There was no way to make extra money like fishing in Alberta. Our seventh child, a daughter, was born there in October, 1936. That winter was long and cold. In the spring we told my father that he would be better off to have a single party to come and look after things. One of my uncles offered us a Bennet wagon, and tin from a shed that had been torn down by a storm to use to build a house on the wagon. So with their help we were ready for the trip west by May 24. The children had had a picnic at school that day and a May Pole. When we told my father's brother-in-law we were going back to Alberta, he got upset. While we were there he got up out of bed and enjoyed the children. He thought a lot of the baby. He left the dinner table and went upstairs. My dad went up to see if he was O.K. As he was subject to fits under stress, he gave him a pill but he didn't swallow it. He died that afternoon. We stayed over a few days longer. My husband took a truckload of cattle to Winnipeg. We got \$48.00 for four or five head. That was all the cash we had on hand for the 900 mile trip. We drove back with 2 wagons, 7 head of cattle, 2 doz. hens and a lamb. My brother-in-law had given the lamb to one of the boys. We made Rivers the first night, a distance of 7 miles. After that we made 10 miles a day. We milked cows the first week or so, but lost time waiting for cream cheques to be made out. After that we traded our milk to farmers for bread, butter or grain for the

hens, or whatever we needed. The hens laid enough eggs to keep us more or less. People were very good. One night in Saskatchewan we camped along the road near a farm where we could get water for stock. Water was hard to come by. The lady came down with supper cooked and took two girls back to the house to spend the night as it looked like a big storm coming up.

In the "dirty thirties" it was really dried out. There were no crops but there was a little grass along the side of the highway. Farmers were hauling water from the river for their stock. Lots of farmers left their farms, some with nice buildings. They would meet us, and stop to tell us we were going the wrong way. They were heading north west for Carrot River country.

Near Waterton, Saskatchewan, around noon we ran into a hurricane. The horses turned around and would not face it. It tore down telephone lines, blew buildings over and the dust was terrible. It only lasted a few minutes and then passed on.

It was hot in Saskatchewan. You'd stop for dinner and you would just about melt. It was a little cooler when you were moving. We were about twenty miles south of Battleford before we had our first rain. We had ferried across the Saskatchewan River. We had to make 3 trips to move the stock, 2 wagons and horses across. We were taking a short cut to get to Battleford by following an old trail along the river. We had stopped for dinner and were hitching up the horses to go again when a cloudburst hit. In a matter of minutes, we were in 6 to 8 inches of water. Bridges were all condemned but you could cross at your own risk. It took us nearly a week to make those 20 miles to Battleford. We had to put 4 horses on a wagon and then go back to do the same with the other wagon. Some Indians came along and when they saw our hens they wanted some so they traded a purebred 6 month old pup for them. The pup turned out to be a good sheep dog. It lived for 15 years and then was killed by a car.

It was so much greener in Alberta. Arthur and the older boys slept under the wagon. The girls, the younger boys and I slept in the Caboose. We had a camp stove for cooking. The baby clothes had to be washed by hand every night and hung to dry. John had his bike to herd the cows along. It had been so hot in Saskatchewan one day that the heel flies got after the cows and they scattered in every direction. Some went down the railway track and we thought we had lost them, but when we came to a crossing we got them out. Tracks used to be always fenced in.

Finally we came out between Leduc and Millet. The horses knew where they were then. They sure picked up speed. We made from No. 2 Highway to within 4 miles of home that day. We camped out near where Dave Steinke now lives, southwest end of Wizard Lake. We had had no mail all summer but had written letters. Arthur's brother Conrad and family drove out that night to our camp. It was a happy time for all. After 95 days of travelling, it was sure nice to get home next day. Baby and all took the trip fine with

nobody sick a day. Three months is a long time to be living on the road. Baby used to walk around holding onto chairs or whatever. But once we got home she crawled. She didn't start walking until Christmas. Conrad's family had planted a garden for us. It took about a week before I could get back to normal. I could go out and get what I wanted to eat from the garden. Those were happy days!



John Halladay leaving for overseas, 1942, with father Arthur, sister Gladys and brother Lawrence.

We had one more child, a boy. Then World War II came up. Our son-in-law Bill Succroft enlisted. He sold his quarter and gave us the chance to buy the other 80 acres. Our daughter Gladys came home. Her dad built her a small house where she stayed till he came home. They bought a half section of land just north of where they had lived before. When war came up, John and Glen Wickstrom had been out working. They came home one day with uniforms on. It was a shock but not unexpected. I had lost my only brother in the First World War so I am thankful that John came back.



Olive Halladay at age of 75, with some of her last herd of sheep.

Arthur died in 1973 at age 83. I am still living on S.W. 1-48-1 W5. My children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren are all alive and healthy and not too far away, except Caroline and Ralph Halladay. My descendants number 79 at last count.

THE HALLADAY FAMILY

Arthur and Olive's children married

Nov. 1948 - John and Olga Shymansky

Three children: Charence - 2, Patricia - 0,

Glenn - 1.

Nov. 1942 Gladys and Bill Suecroft Eight children: David - 3, Shirley - 4, Garry - 2, Terrance - , Marie - 2, Joy, James.

April 1953 - Harold and Melba Stewart

Six children: Bernice - 3, Doris - 2, Joyce - 0, Douglas, Kevin.

Nov. 1952 - Vernon and Linda Klatt
Nine children: Caroline - 5, Lorraine - 1,
Dorreen - 1, Calvin - 1, Sheila - 0, Alma, Carmen,
Fern, Iris

July 1955 - Lawrence and Lily Stein
Two children: Ronald, Jacqueline
Dec. 1950 - Kathleen and Billy Quick
Four children: Leslie, Leo, Kathy, Kerry
July 1957 - Barbara and Zoltan Liba
Seven children: Thomas, Timothy, Peggy, Russel,

Jonathon, Sherry, Loreleii.

Dec. 1960 - Ralph and Caroline Knull

Dec. 1960 - Ralph and Caroline Knull Three children: Brenda, Wesley, Philip.

ARNOLD AND LINDA KISSER

Arnold Kisser was born on Jan. 6, 1912, in Marinkov, Poland, the youngest son of Samuel and Augusta Kisser (nee Appel). The family included one older brother Gustav, old older sister Martha, and one younger sister Bertha. When World War I broke out the Kisser family, along with other families, were sent to Germany to escape the brutality of the battlefield. When the war was over, they were allowed to go back to their home. The house was still standing but the rest lay in ruins. They returned late in the fall of 1919 and there was no food or clothing for the coming winter. Starvation and ill health was prevalent. In Dec., their mother died and their father was left with 4 young motherless children to care for. In Mar., 8 year old Arnold, who slept with his father, woke up one morning to find that his father had died in his sleep. Now they were total orphans. They went to live with their Uncle Ludwig Appel for about 6 years until Gustav was old enough to take full responsibility in the running of the home place. He gathered his orphaned family together and began operating the home farm. Gustav married a couple of years later and instead of dividing up the property, Arnold and Martha decided to move to Canada, leaving Gustav and their younger sister Berthan in Poland.

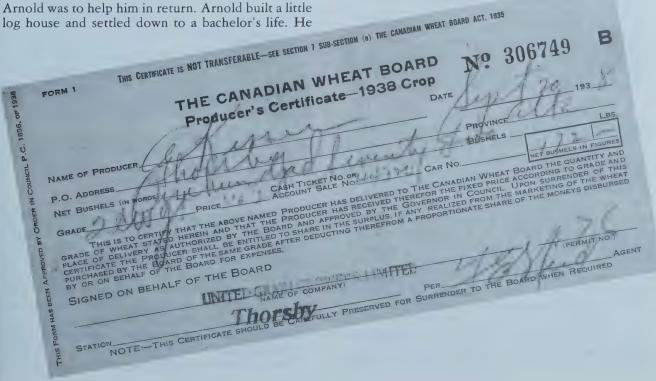
In the spring of 1929, Poland lost two teenagers along with many other families who hoped to establish a new home for themselves in a strange and unknown part of the world. Arnold and his sister Martha, along with several other families from their village, said goodbye to their homeland and sailed to the "Promised Land". Arnold was then 17 and Martha was 19.

When they arrived in Edmonton they were met by Pastor Wahl. They were taken to the home of a farmer, Gus Elgert, who had a brother Ferdinand Elgert living in the same village where the two teenagers had lived in Poland. This village was Marinkov, then under Russia. Once in Canada Arnold had several battles to fight. The language barrier had to be overcome and he was filled with loneliness for his homeland. It was a great undertaking for a lad of 17. He worked for George Stag for about a year and a half for \$150.00 a year. He then worked for Gus Elgert for 3 years. He was promised to be sent to school in the winter but when winter came, there was no time. He was up at four in the morning each day feeding and grooming the horses, followed by regular chores. During spring work he would walk behind the harrows all day. At harvest time, he would stook behind the horse-drawn binder and later hauled bundles with the threshing crew. Meanwhile, his sister Martha had found employment housekeeping for a banker in Leduc. Arnold recalls how he went to buy some cigarettes in Edmonton a few days after his arrival in Canada. There was only 1 store between the tracks and 104 St. on Whyte Ave. The lady of the store asked him "Fifteen or sixteen?" Arnold, not knowing the language. thought she meant 15 or 16 cigarettes. So he told her 15. She shook her head "no" and would not sell him any. Later he learned the reason. She had asked if he was 15 or 16 years old and one had to be 16 to buy cigarettes. Arnold was 17 but so short and small that people misjudged his age.

In 1934, Arnold bought a farm 6 miles south of Thorsby, SW 14-48-1-W5. Ferdinand Elgert broke 15 acres of land for him and broadcast seeded it by hand. He donated both the breaking and the seeding and Arnold was to help him in return. Arnold built a little log house and settled down to a bachelor's life. He

paid \$13.00 for the logs from Loleit and Gebauer. Lumber for the roof, floor and ceiling came from the Morrows Saw Mill at the price of \$8.00 per M. This house stood until two years ago when it burned down. Two years later he sold this farm to Leonard Gaubatz. In 1936, he bought another farm 7 miles south of Thorsby, NW 2-48-1-W5. This farm had no open land and no buildings. He bought a one-room log house from Louis Rinas which had been used as a general store. Arnold moved this log house to his farm. After digging a well he settled in. In the spring of 1937, with grub axe in hand, he cleared 26 acres. He broke it and in the spring of 1938, he seeded his first crop of wheat. These 26 acres were not the only ones he grubbed. In order to buy groceries Arnold and 3 other men contracted to clear 40 acres at \$3.50 per acre. This was in the Telfordville area. They had to buy their own groceries and after 10 days of hard work they could see that there was no hope of making any money. They abandoned the job. The farmer refused to pay them for the work they had already done. These were the depression years of the thirties and they put many a settler to the test of survival.

In 1937, Arnold met Linda Brier. Arnold and Stanley Kupka were walking through a hay meadow (now part of the Steve Dool farm) hunting bush chickens when they met two people making hay. They stopped to talk, found that they spoke German, and told them their names and went home. The people making hay happened to be Linda Brier's parents. When they returned home they told Dan Mogdan about the young man they had met. Dan said that Arnold was his cousin and that he must visit him.



In Nov. after church services, Dan, Bertha, and Linda went to pay Arnold a visit. He was not home but they met him on the road returning from town. He called his visitors back and offered them lunch. Shortly before Christmas, Bertha was returning from Edmonton via bus and she met Arnold on the bus. She invited him to the Mogdan house and as they did not have room for him to sleep, he slept that night at the Brier home. In Jan. he was back to pay a visit to Linda. He was not back again until Apr., and then serious dating began. He came each weekend, walking 12 miles each way.

On July 3, 1938, Arnold and Linda were married. Linda's wedding gift from her parents was several cows, some chickens, and some household furniture. Her sister Bertha gave her a cow. And so started their married life. They sold a can of cream each week for \$2.00 from which they bought their groceries, medicine, clothes, and other necessities. The cream was hauled to the train station with a horse and buggy that Linda's mother had given them. That fall Arnold harvested a good crop of wheat. The 26 acres yielded 1000 bushels. This he sold for 50½ cents a bushel. The farm that Arnold bought was up for tax sale. The owner wanted \$200.00 for it and there were \$350.00 in taxes owing. Arnold paid the \$200.00, which was all the money that he had, and in order to pay off the taxes, the farm was consolidated and the taxes paid on yearly payments.

Linda Brier, came to Canada in 1928, as a little girl 8 years old. Her parents first worked around Leduc and Millet areas and later moved to a farm in the Funnell district about 4 miles north of Breton. Her first school was the Grenthal School in the Kavanaugh district, and later the new Golden Glow School. Linda and her sister walked the 3½ miles to school-a total of 7 miles each day. When her parents moved to the Breton area she only had a quarter of a mile to walk. She received all her education here plus 1 year in Poland. In 1935 her parents moved to the Sunnybrook area where she lived until her marriage to Arnold Kisser.

Linda called her first home, a one-room log cabin, her doll house. Despite depression and hard times Arnold and Linda looked forward to better times. On June 23, 1940, their first child, Evelyn Leah was born. On May 11, 1942, a son, Ordan Edward Frederick was born. Times slowly changed for the better. The debts were soon paid off, and in 1941 they bought their first car which was a 1930 Chev Coupe. In 1944, Arnold and Linda bought another farm, SE 15-48-1-W5, in partnership with Linda's parents. They bought the land from Louis Rinas and money had to be borrowed to pay for this land. Arnold, needing larger buildings for his family and stock, moved into the Rinas buildings and Briers moved into the Kisser house. The cattle herd increased in number which enabled Arnold to sell some each year to meet expenses. In 1949, Arnold took seriously ill with a back injury. An operation on his back took place after all other

treatments had failed, and after 5 weeks in the Royal Alex Hospital he was discharged. He was ordered to do no work. Arnold's illness put a heavy burden on Linda's shoulders. He came home just in time to see the crops ready to harvest. He now farmed 3 places, having rented one from Mr. Hirnie. Unable to do any work, all the men from the Seventh Day Adventist church plus neighbors teamed together and brought their binders. They cut the grain, stooked it and in two days all the farms were finished. There was a total of 15 men. A couple of weeks later Arnold suffered a relapse which meant that the operation had been a failure. Fearing that another operation would leave him unable to walk again, he refused it. His pain was so severe that one could hear him cry out for a great distance. He was given heat treatments which failed. Slowly the pain eased but then Arnold took ill again. He was sick in bed for a month before it was recognized as Yellow Jaundice. The jaundice was caused from being poisoned by needle injections. The doctors nearly gave him up. He spent another 5 weeks in hospital and all winter to recover. For 8 months Arnold was unable to do any work. Linda's strength was certainly put to the test. A sick husband in bed, 36 head of cattle to care for, 2 small children to sent to school and the coldest winter they had ever experienced. The temperature at times dropped to -56 F. and stayed steady from -25 to -35 for 2 months. Linda used all her strength and energy to pull through that winter.



The group who took Arnold Kisser's crop off when he was sick in 1949. Standing: L. to R. Harold Brod, Dan Mogdan, Fred Brier, Ted Remfert, Erwin Zotzman, Rudolph Zotzman, Ray Brod, August Comm, Hugo Gulde. Squatting: L. to R. Ed Remfert, Alvin Helfenstein. Laying in front: Leonard Gaubatz.

Arnold got well enough to work again, but to make it easier for him he gave up farming and bought a school bus. In Jan. of 1952, the family had a farm sale and in Oct. they moved into the village of Thorsby. He bought a house built by Ralph Otto. In 1959, Arnold bought another farm, NE 2-48-1-W5 from Stanley Cieslinski. In 1955, on July 18, Arnold and Linda were blessed with another son, Derald Lee. The family was completed in Nov. 1, 1958, when another son, Dallas Merlin was born.

At the time of this writing, Evelyn (Kisser)



The Arnold Kisser children, Ordan, Derald, Dallas & Evelyn, 1960.

Ingraham and her husband Leon live at Crooked Creek (near Grande Prairie) with their 2 sons, Chip and Curt. Ordan and Marilyn (Dunlop) Kisser and their 2 sons, Jeff and Darren live near Drayton Valley. Derald Kisser is presently enrolled in Mount Royal College in Calgary in the aviation department. Dallas Kisser lives in Drayton Valley and is employed with Amoco Canada. All of these children are very proud of their heritage and their wonderful parents.

In 1963, Arnold and Linda celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

In 1969, Arnold and Linda built a new home contracted by Metro Belozer, and sold their old home to the Pasula's and John Ripka. Arnold and Linda talk of some of the highlights of their life; how Linda washed clothes on the scrub board for 10 years until her mother and dad purchased, as a gift for her, a new Beatty wringer washer run by a gas engine; how bright the light shone in the barn in 1950 when they bought their first mantle light to take the place of the old coal oil wick lanterns; the horses went into retirement when a new tractor came in 1947. Their first holiday was enjoyed by the family in 1950, travelling through the mountains of B.C., and the northwestern states of the U.S.A. The year 1967, took them back to Europe for a reunion with Arnold's sister Bertha after 38 years. After 27 years of operating a school bus Arnold sold his bus to Ted Powlik and is taking life easier. He is still engaged in farming. Arnold and Linda have recently purchased a holiday trailer and Arnold grins and says, "The best is yet to come".

WM. KLATT FAMILY

by Gloria (Wagar) Klatt

Wm. Klatt was born at home in the Michigan Centre area in 1934 and moved with his parents, Ernest and Johanna (nee Reichelt) Klatt, to a farm near Wizard Lake, where he grew up and went to school at Canyon Valley. Then, when the time came for him to get out and earn his own living, the oil boom had just begun, so to the rigs he went. In 1961, he married Gloria Wagar and they lived on the Wagar farm where Bill commuted to and from his work. But the rigs had

lost their glow and he turned to construction for employment; first with grain elevators, and then on to heavier construction such as bridges and gas plants. When my parents left the homestead in 1969, we took over and continued beef farming and Bill works out on construction. We have 3 children: Leon (1963), Maureen (1965), and Warren (1967), who attend Pipestone and Pigeon Lake Regional Schools. We are proud of our heritage and rightly so, as these children are the 4th generation on this farm.

HERMAN R. KNULL

Submitted by Natalie Knull

Herman R. Knull was born on December 31, 1906, to Rudolf and Anna Knull of the Willow Creek district where he grew up. He attended the Willow Creek School and worked at home until he was around 21 years old. He then decided to go farming on his own and in July 1928, bought some C.P.R. land, the N.E. 15-48-1-W5. With the aid of his father and grandfather, he built a 2-room house that same year. Next he began to grub trees, and cleared about 15 acres in the summer of 1929, besides working for his neighbours, Harry Kuzio and Lewis Rinas.



Herman Knull and his house built in 1928.

He recalls how many of the local young people would gather at his house for dances and claims that M.E. Kuzio's wedding dance was held in his house. It was at one of these dances that he met his wife-to-be.

It was on December 9, 1930 that Hilda Meckle and Herman were married in Edmonton. To start their farming career, they were given 3 cows, 2 horses and about 24 chickens by their parents. Herman borrowed some horses from his dad and some machinery from his neighbours to put in his crop in the spring of 1931. That first crop was hailed out completely. Times were very hard. They made butter and sold it for 25¢ a lb. and the eggs were sold for 5¢ a dozen. Somehow they managed through the winter, hoping for a better year to come. Then in April, 1932 a son, Roy, was born.

In 1934, they traded one of the cows for a 1926 Model T Ford, their first car, which Herman later converted into a truck. In about 1936 they decided to start a chop mill in Telfordville, but things didn't turn out too well so they gave that up and went back to their farm. It was at this time that Herman decided to start sawing wood for the people in the neighbourhood, as at that time everybody had a large wood pile that would last them for a year. He had a one cylinder stationary motor to start with and spent many a long day at each place sawing wood, charging \$1.00 an hour. Later he got a swing type saw with a car motor and the price went up to \$1.25 an hour. He would spend all winter sawing wood for the people in the district to earn some extra money. In time, the wood stoves were replaced by electricity and Herman retired from this trade in the early '50's.

In September 1938, a daughter, Leola was born to them. The children went to Centre Lodge school, walking a distance of 2½ miles over very poor roads, especailly in the spring when the thaw came. Roy's first teacher was Miss Anna Moyer better known to all as Mrs. Sam Wickstrom. Leola's first teacher was Miss Florence Lawson now known as Mrs. Victor Pasula.

In 1945 the M.D. of Pioneer (as the County of Leduc was then known) opened up the sand pits on Herman's land. They took sand to surface the county roads and paid him $2\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ a yard. The first road to be sanded was the townline. The next year they were paid 5¢ a yard. The sand pits were a source of extra income, as this quarter is mostly sand and has a creek running through it. The sand pits continue to supply the people in the district with fill-sand and was used to soil cement the black top from Thorsby to Sandholm corner.

Herman bought his first tractor in 1945, an old Fordson. They managed to clear a few more acres of land and as time went on they acquired more cows and some pigs. They also built on to the house, which now has 5 rooms and a porch. In 1950 Herman bought the S.W. 23-47-1 W5 which he gave to his son, helping him to clear land and get started in farming.

Soon Herman reached the age where he could receive his old age pension and so in 1972, they sold their cows and pigs but continued to farm the land until the fall of 1977, when he turned the land over to his son and daughter. Although he has retired, he still keeps himself busy helping Roy with his farming operations. Hilda keeps herself busy with housework, and her hobby-crocheting. Both are active and in fairly



Roy and Natalie Knull with their children Ricky and Karen. Taken on their 25th anniversary.

good health and plan to reside on the farm as long as they can.

After finishing his schooling at Centre Lodge, Roy played the guitar with Joe Babiak's orchestra.In December 1952 he married Natalie Stashko. We resided in Thorsby for about 9 years as I worked, first at the Nu-Way Store for the Keaschuk Brothers and then at Thorsby Agencies Ltd., while Roy travelled to the farm each day to do his chores. In 1960 we built our own house on his parents' farm and moved into it in August 1961, where we are still living. We have 2 children, a son, Ricky and a daughter, Karen, who are at present attending Thorsby High School.



Leola Masyk, Roy Knull and their parents Hilda and Herman taken in 1975

FRANK AND EFFIE KUZIO

by Frank

I (Frank Kuzio), son of D.M. Kuzio, married Effie Orlick in 1963 and on April 1, 1964, we moved to the old Tom Cummins farm where we still reside.

There was no water or power so we lived like a lot of people in the olden days. An old coal oil lamp lit the old log cabin we lived in, and an old wood and coal stove and pot belly heater provided the heat. In the middle of November 1964, we got power which was a God send.

We hauled water from the neighbors and washed clothes at my father's place for a month. Then we drilled a well.

The following year we built a house with the help of our kind neighbors, friends and relatives. Later we added fences and more buildings, cleared more land, and are still picking rocks.

We have three children - Robbie in Grade 10, Rhonda in Grade 9 and Curtis in kindergarten.

We are members of the Centre Lodge Community Centre.

ALBERT AND MABEL PAUL

by Sylvia Paul

Albert Paul, originally from the Nisku-Leduc district, moved with his parents, Phillip and Julia, to a farm near Calmar in 1925. In Oct. of 1927, he married Mabel Erickson, daughter of Fred and Charlotte Erickson, and continued to live on the home place. Two of their children, Ina, born in 1925, and Bernice, born in 1929, died shortly after birth. Their eldest son Royce, was born on Feb. 11, 1931 and daughter Phyllis on Sept. 2, 1939. Striking off to seek their fortune elsewhere, they moved to the Centre Lodge district in 1940, farming a quarter section ½ mile north of the Centre Lodge School.

On June 29, 1944 their second son Gary was born and on Feb. 1, 1950 their last child, Dale arrived. The family endured many years of hardship and finally after being hailed out, rained out, and frozen out, Albert and Mabel sold the farm to Henry Paul and decided to move to Edmonton in 1953 and seek employment there. They both found work at the Good Samaritan Hospital and were employed there until their retirement.

In 1972 they moved to Kelowna to retire and be with Mabel's mother, Mrs. Charlotte Osterburg. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Paul celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Oct. 1977 and had the rare pleasure of having her mother present at the celebration.

Three of the Paul children still reside in the Thorsby district: Royce, married to Gladys Leeder, lives in the village and workd for the Dept. of Highways; Gary married to Sylvia Sharko, owns a dairy farm near Thorsby; and Dale, resides in the village and commutes to Edmonton to work. Their only daughter, Phyllis, is married to Roy Dennis, who owns a business in Red Deer; however the family resides in Lacombe. The Albert Pauls have 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

HISTORY OF THE REINHOLD PAUL FAMILY

Reinhold Paul, son of Philip and Julie Paul, was born in 1899, in the area known now as Nisku. Reinhold grew up on the farm along with his 6 brothers and 2 sisters. In his younger days, he and his friends made quick trips to Edmonton on empty railroad cars. It was cheap transportation! Reinhold enjoyed tinkering around with old Model T cars. It is said that he was an expert well-digger in his teen years also. Reinhold explored the truth - "he that findeth a wife, findeth a good thing" - when he married Olga Rentz, January 24, 1932, in Barrhead, Alberta.

Olga came to Canada from Poland with her family in 1928. She was only 14 years old at that time, but she well remembers the ocean voyage to Halifax, the long, tedious train ride causing motion sickness, to Edmonton, and the choosing of farmland

Mellowdale, Alberta.

Now, Olga was no "green-horn" in her new home, as she had played a large part in raising her 5 sisters and 2 brothers. Reinhold and Olga made their first home in the Calmar district. Both of these newlyweds were eager farmers - cows, chickens, ducks, turkeys, pigs, or you name it - it was a part of the farm family.

On December 12, 1932, a beautiful bouncing baby boy named LaVern Reinhold, joined the family. LaVern was always full of surprises; not always pleasant ones either! His mother well remembers the many times the cat was given the butter when Ma and Pa were busy in the barn. LaVern is quiet in nature, but in a Paul, quietness meant mischief. It was particularly quiet until evening one day. LaVern finally came home after being found in the ditch by Mr. Hartman. What a relief to the excited neighborhood!

At present LaVern resides in Courtenay, B.C. He is Supervisor of the Upholstery Department for the Goodwill Store in Courtenay. Many homes have been enriched by his art. LaVern's wife, Loretta, is active in social work and his son, Leon (Tiggy), is an "A" student in school as well as a Star hockey player.

In 1936, Reinhold and Olga moved to Centre Lodge to continue farming. Their 2-room house did

little more than keep out wind and rain.

The following year Vernon Louis joined the Paul family. Vernon loved fluffy yellow chicks so much that he literally "squeezed them to death". Vernon's hobby was auctioneering. His brothers were the audience! When of age, LaVern and Vernon attended the Centre Lodge country school. Vernon married Roseline Ruff of Warburg. They have lived in Edmonton since they were wed. Vernon started working for Stelco at the age of 18, and because he is responsible, energetic, and a capable person, he is now a foreman with that company. Roseline and Vernon have 3 children. Larry being 19 years, is hoping to join the R.C.M.P. Trevor. 16, is attending Bonnie Doon Composite High School and is an enthusiast in sports. Kim displays talent on the piano and in writing poetry. She also enjoys teasing her father!

Another boy, David Irvin, was born in 1941. His older brothers really thought they had the world with this new toy. David was always "Mama's boy", never very mischievous, and usually quiet. (At least that's Olga's side of the story!) In Dave's teen years, he was quite a Romeo. He was never alone though because he and Terry Paul, Henry and Erna Paul's son, were inseparable. That is until a girl named Hilda Doering came into Dave's life. Dave studied diligently after being wed and was honoured with his machinist and mill-right papers. He is such a valuable man that a call came for help from the U.S.A. in the spring of '78. So David, Hilda and their 3 children moved from Edmonton to Orange, California in the summer time. We seriously hope Canada wins them back! Perhaps their children, Michelle, 12 years, Dean, 10 years, and Amber-Lee, 8 years, will be their constant reminder of beautiful Alberta!

Brian Roland was very much an after-thought to Reinhold and Olga, as he and David are nearly 12 years apart in age. Brian, you see, is very much to blame for his mother's grey hair! One day while helping the men fence, Brian disappeared - all but his feet that is. He was measuring himself against the post hole, I guess. He, like LaVern, wandered away from home without permission. Brian attended Thorsby School until the end of grade 11, then went into the city to complete his grade 12.

Brian met his wife, Donna (Kinnett), in their first year of Bible College at Edmonton Gospel Temple. After 2 years at E.G.T., Brian and Donna moved to Caroline, Alberta, to attend Living Faith Renewal Center. They know all about one-room log cabins, outhouses and weiner roasts in fireplaces! In the spring of '77 they moved to Moosomin, Saskatchewan to help build a church and work in that assembly. Brian and Donna now live 6½ miles southwest of Thorsby on Brian's parents' farm.

It was in Reinhold and Olga's home that the Pentecostal church of Thorsby first began. Pastor Miller of Leduc did not want to leave Olga without fellowship and teaching after she had invited Christ into her heart, so he came to her home once a week to teach. With time, the news of this home study spread, and others joined the group. Later the Herbert Vath home was also used as a meeting place. When those boundaries became cramped, the brethren found it necessary to build a church. In 1938, a church was built south of Thorsby. The building still stands today, but is not in use. The congregation now meets at the Immanuel Pentecostal church in the town of Thorsby.

Reinhold Paul died of a heart-attack in the spring of 1974. His wife, Olga, still lives in Thorsby and is doing very well. She makes part of her living as a babysitter and I dare to say she is "Grandma" to half of the town.

THE JOHN POLOK STORY

By Mary Polok

John Polok was born in Czechoslovakia on April 21, 1903. He came to Canada in July, 1926, and worked on farms, the railroad, or at any available employment. People who were single had it easier than those who had families to take care of. He managed to get work in the summer, and in the winter he usually worked on farms for room and board.

John enlisted in the Canadian army when the war broke out, but was discharged for medical reasons before the war ended. He got a job on the Alaska Highway where he worked for 2 years.

In August, 1941, John and I were married. In 1946, John bought the SW 36-47-1-W5 from Alex Shymanski and we moved to this farm in June.

I was born in the Calmar district, the eldest of 9 children of John and Joyce Kuta and attended Wilton Park School. My earliest memory of that institution was the first day I started school. As soon as we got to our seats that first day, the teacher called up 2 boys to the front of the room and strapped them. Not knowing that they were being rightly punished for some earlier misdeed, I assumed that the teacher strapped all the children every morning. I was terrified, wondering when my turn was coming.

Another incident that is still fresh in my memory is the teacher having an epileptic seizure during classes. Another time, when I was in grade 7, the class was unusually quiet when suddenly about 6 sections of stovepipe collapsed over the row of seats where the grade 4 students sat. Needless to say, these pupils were covered with ashes and soot.

We always had Christmas concerts and made home-made decorations for the tree. In the winter, the boys pumped gallons of water by hand to make a skating rink on the schoolyard.



Tom Peterson's outfit threshing on the Anton Cieslinski farm, John Polok standing in foreground.

Spring brought sports such as softball, football and basketball. Our teams were very good.

After leaving school, I worked for farm wives for the meagre amount of \$7.00 a month. My outside duties included bringing in the milk cows, milking, separating and feeding calves and pigs. I washed clothes for a family of 6 on a washboard, scrubbed bare floors on my hands and knees, and baked large batches of bread as well as doing other chores too numerous to mention.

The first few years on the farm, John and I raised turkeys, pigs, geese and cattle.

Our children walked 3 miles to the nearest school which was Centre Lodge. In 1952, the school bus started taking children to Pipestone and when the schools were centralized, they received their high school education at Pigeon Lake Regional High School.

The year 1954 was unsuccessful for us on the farm. It rained all summer. We had no crop or garden and the hay rotted in the field. John was forced to look for work. He found employment at the Bonnie Glen Gas Plant constructing a pipeline. The next few years he worked on the railroad and at the International Airport near Leduc.

Now that the children are all grown, we have rented our farm and keep a few cattle. We are enjoying our retirement.

We have 5 children. Alvin lives in Sechelt, B.C. where he is a supervisor for B.C. Hydro. He married Diane Turley and they have 2 children. Loreen is Mrs. Nick Zuk and is employed by the University Hospital in Edmonton. They have 3 children. Janet is Mrs. Michael Bryant, has 3 boys, and also resides in Edmonton. Resemary is Mrs. Larry Carlson. They have 2 sons and farm in the Westerose area. Gerald, employed by the Texaco Oil Company at Bonnie Glen, is still single, and lives at home.

LOUIS CIESLINSKI RONALDS

In 1907, the Steve Cieslinski family of mother, father, and five boys came to Canada from Poland. They settled on a farm in the Morrowdale district.

In 1916, Louis recalls that he bought his first car. Four years later he went on his own and bought 160 acres of land with a small house on it for \$300, about seven miles east of the family farm. Land clearing was a slow process, but he managed to clear his quarter mostly by hand. The only roads in the district were survey lines. A trip to the nearest town, Leduc, took two days by horse and wagon - often longer if it happened to rain.

In 1915, he helped to establish a municipality of which he was secretary. In 1916, they started a post office and named it Dnipro which operated for ten years until the government took over and started a rural mail delivery. He is still on the same rural route #2.

He and neighbors, Angus Macaulay and Bob Halladay, formed a council to build roads. At the time, the taxes on a quarter of land were \$4.00. A school was built in 1930 named Centre Lodge and was located one mile north and one mile west of the farm. Louis also took on the job of registering the births and deaths in the district.

He very much enjoyed reading and writing letters, despite the fact that he had very little schooling in this country. He was constantly writing down facts and figures so as not to forget them. Perhaps this is the reason that he kept a daily diary almost from the first when he came to Canada. The diary was written mostly in Polish, but occasionally in English, too, if he felt like it. He still writes in it daily.

In the winter, he did a lot of commercial fishing. He would then have to pack all the fish and sell to various parts of the district. In the winter of 1931, he happened to take a load of fish to southern Alberta to



Wedding of Louis and Anna Cieslinski Ronalds in April, 1932.

the district of MacLeod. It was there that he happened to meet Anna Marie Neveroski, who was teaching school. They got married in April, 1932. They had two daughters: Elaine, now Mrs. Wesley Warnock, who owns and operates a dairy farm three miles from the home farm, and Evelyn, now Mrs. Robert Mansfield, who lives in Los Angeles, California.

In 1927, Louis bought his first tractor, a Hart Parr, which he still has on his farm. He did custom breaking with it for his neighbors. By this time, he had also gotten a homestead in the Morrowdale district and another quarter of land with 3 fractions near the home place. In 1935, he bought and operated a saw mill on his farm until it burned down six years later. It was at this time that he built a much bigger house on the farm.

In 1940, he decided to try another venture, apart from farming. He bought a rural picture show business from Mr. J.R. Powlik. Included in the deal were a projector, a screen, a dance hall and a small house in the town of Thorsby. It was then that he decided to change his name from Cieslinski, which he felt was too long and hard to remember, to the shorter name of Ronalds. He was then known as Louis Cieslinski Ronalds or L.C. Ronalds for short. His rural motion picture enterprise showed movies nightly at the following places: Usona, Breton, St. Francis, Lindale, Mulhurst, and also Thorsby, until Mr. Powlik opened a theatre.

He continued this operation until TV came into many homes and attendance went down, causing him to close down. The hall in Thorsby was later sold to Mr. M. Samardzic, who tore it down and used it for a machinery lot.

His wife, Anna, passed away after a lengthy illness on Sept. 23, 1968. Since that time he has lived alone on the farm, still enjoying reading and writing. Until the fall of '78, he drove his car or truck, often making weekly trips to Edmonton. His only real vacation away from the farm in all those years was a week's stay in the hospital in Nov.1978. He still enjoys fairly good health.



Mrs. Steve Cieslinski and her sons L. to R. Stanley, Anton and Louis.

THE JOHN STASHKO FAMILY

as told by Mary Stashko

John, was the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stashko. John and I (Mary Mucha) were married in 1927 and moved onto his quarter of C.P.R. land 8 miles straight south of Thorsby. In later years a paved road was built past it. We built a log house which we lived in. The old house still stands there. We raised 3 sons. Dennis was born in 1928. James was born in 1929 and David, the youngest was born in 1948.

The older boys went to Centre Lodge School. Later we were included in the Thorsby district and buses picked up students and took them into Thorsby.

In 1960, we built a new house to replace the old log one the children grew up in. Dennis married Teenie Helfenstein, a neighbor girl and they live in Edmonton. He is a plumber. They have 2 children, Denise and Kenneth.

James remained with us and worked out for 21 years. He married Evelyn Meckley, also a neighbor's daughter. After that he moved away and lived nearer his work.





John & Mary Stashko with son David.

The Stashkos, Back row: Dennis (holding son Kenny) with wife Teenie, Mrs. John Stashko, Evelyn & Jim Stashko. In front: Denise, daughter of Dennis & Teenie, and David, youngest son of John and Mary Stashko.

David attended Thorsby High School, and when grown up, he married Mabel Emmerling of Wetaskiwin. They live there, where he is employed as a mailman. They have 2 children, Shawna and Allen.

My husband and I retired from the farm in 1966 and bought a house in Thorsby. James, or Jim as he is better known, returned to the farm and still owns it. His family lived on it for 7 years and then moved to Edmonton and bought a motel. They operate the Alpine Motel in Edmonton's west end now. They have a family of 3 children, Debbie, Carolyn and Wayne.

While my husband's health permitted he always drove out to the farm to help Jim with the seeding and harvesting. He loved the farm and the work. His health failed in 1978 and he passed away on Dec. 18, 1978. I continue to live in our home in Thorsby.

We have 2 great grandchildren now as Denise is married to Don Matiushyk and they have 2 daughters Carrie Dawn and Megan.

HULDA LINDGREN WICKSTROM

(Interviewed by

Wendy Wickstrom in 1967).

Mrs. Hulda Wickstrom was born in 1882 in Sorsele, Vasterbotin, Sweden. She grew up in this village, and in 1901, married Sigismund Wickstrom. Here their first four children, Adelia, Sam, Roy and John were born.



Mrs. Hulda Wickstrom

Some of the neighbors had left Sweden to make their homes in America. Those who had visited various parts of the United States and Canada returned with glowing accounts of the new land. They marvelled at the abundance of food, the cheapness of land and the ease with which people made a living.

Mr. Wickstrom decided to see for himself if these tales were true. A year or so later he sent for his family. Despite dire warnings of possible dangers, Hulda packed the family belongings, and in 1913 they all arrived in the district now known as Glen Park.



Mrs. & Mrs. S. Wickstrom, S.W. 20-49-27-W4.

Mrs. Wickstrom was pleased with the beds here. They were equipped with springs and mattresses, which made them so much more comfortable than the hard wooden beds used in Sweden. Washboards, clothes lines and clothes pins were new to her. She was used to rubbing clothes with her hands, beating them with a stick, and hanging them on bushes to dry. Pots and pans here did not have legs as they did in Sweden.

Most wonderful of all was the food! Accustomed to a frugal diet, it now seemed that every meal was a feast. There were so many different kinds of fruit and vegetables, a variety of meats and a delicious food called "cake".

(The remainder of this history was written by Anna Wickstrom in 1978).

The family lived in several different locations in the Glen Park area. Gus, Alf, Ingvar, Glen and Edsel were born in the district. In the absence of a well, Mrs. Wickstrom hauled water for drinking, cooking, and washing, from a spring some distance from the house. She used a yoke across her shoulders to carry the pails. Her husband supported the family by fishing at Pigeon Lake and by working in logging camps in B.C. from time to time.



Old timers of the Glen Park district. L. to R. Pete Modin, Victor Forsberg, R. Oslund, unknown and Edwin Anderson. Front: Hulda Wickstrom, Clara Nystrom, Ell Pearson, about 1916.

In 1927, the family moved to the Centre Lodge district to farm on N.W. 12-48-28 W4. A school was built in the district in 1930. The five younger boys attended. Mr. Wickstrom died in 1936.

Mrs. Wickstrom was healthy and strong. She always got up very early in the morning and worked hard all day to meet the endless needs of her large family. She baked enormous quantities of Swedish thinbread made with a special rolling pin.

She said that her life was not all hard work. She went on picnics in the summer and she skated in winter. There were house parties which often lasted until morning.

In the fall of 1941, she and Edsel went to live at Sandholm, at Pigeon Lake. As time went on, six of the boys joined the armed forces, but only four of them, Glen, John, Roy and Gus, went overseas.

Hulda Wickstrom was well-known for her hospitality, generosity and cheerfulness. Her friends, relatives, neighbors, summer people and winter fishermen all enjoyed going to her house at the lake to have coffee, to sample her tasty baking and to chat. Nearly every year a birthday party was held in her honor.

In 1964, she started spending the winters at Planeview Manor in Leduc. At the age of 96, she now lives at the Parkland Nursing Home in Leduc. She is fortunate in having her oldest grand-daughter, Edna Eklund, an employee of the Home, near enough to provide her with extra love and understanding.

There are just four of her nine children living: Glen, with his family at Drayton Valley; Gus at Cynthia; Edsel, at Sandholm; and Sam, with his wife, on the home farm at Centre Lodge. Hulda Wickstrom has 16 grandchildren, 30 greatgrandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

THE SAM WICKSTROM FAMILY

by Anna Wickstrom

If I were to tell, in my usual long-winded fashion, of all the hectic experiences encountered in nearly 39 years of marriage, this story would reach book-length proportions. As the Thorsby book is, I hear, already filled to overflowing, I shall have to be brief.

We have spent our life together on NW 12-28-48-W4, in the Thorsby district. My husband Sam, farmed here and fished at Pigeon Lake until he was forced to retire because of ill-health.



The courting of Anna Moyer by Sam Wickstrom with his Nash Coupe.

Anna was teaching in the district and boarding at the Julius Bergstrom

I, Anna, who really should have been included in the "Guiness Book of World Records" as the world's "greenest" farm wife, struggled along for the first few years, trying to learn the rudiments of housekeeping; then, because teachers were scarce during the war, I taught three years at Sandholm, a year at Canyon Creek and then a half-year at Centre Lodge until a couple of weeks before our second child was born.

Our son, Ernest, who was born in 1941, attended school at Canyon Creek, Centre Lodge and Thorsby. After working at various jobs, he married Shirley Steinke. They live and farm in the Morrowdale

district. Ernest also works in the Texaco plant at Mulhurst and Shirley part-time at the Thorsby Auction Mart. Their daughters, Corrine, 13 and Tamara, 9, are bused to Thorsby school.

Sandra was born in 1948. She attended school at Centre Lodge and then at Thorsby until she graduated from high school there. She went to Edmonton where she got a job as a typist in an office on the U of A campus. She soon switched to part-time work for A.M.A. so that she could attend N.W. Bible College. Here she met, and a year later married, Dave Webster of Barbados. Two years later they moved to the West Indies where they served as missionaries on the island of Carriacou, Grenada, and then at Port of Spain, Trinidad. In October of 1978, they moved back to Edmonton. They are now living in Leduc, where Dave



Sam and Anna Wickstrom's 25 wedding anniversary. L. to R. Sandra, Wendy. In front: Sam and Anna, Shirley and Ernie Wickstrom. The anniversary was celebrated with a surprise party for Anna and Sam in the Centre Lodge Community Centre.

is pastor of Calvary Pentecostal Tabernacle. They have three children: Rhonda, 11, Frankie, 7, and Ambert, 16 months.

Wendy, born in 1954, graduated from Thorsby High School and then attended the U of A where she achieved her B. Ed. degree. For nearly two years she worked in an office on the campus. In February, 1979 she married Andrew Tsin, who will soon have his Ph.D. in animal physiology.

Sam and I plan to stay here on the farm as long as possible. Retirement is just great! We have an excuse to sleep in, and time to putter around as we choose. Don't let old-age scare you. It can't be beat!

GLADYS (HALLADAY) WINDSOR STORY

by Gladys Windsor

I am Gladys Halladay Suecroft Windsor, born March 14, 1924, eldest daughter of Arthur and Olive Halladay, and the second eldest of a family of eight children. We were all healthy and well-fed in spite of the hard times in those first few years of my Mother and Dad's marriage.

My early childhood memories go back to 1928 or 1929 when I received a beautiful dark-haired. dark-eyed Eaton's Beauty Doll for Christmas. I fell in love with her. I wrapped her up in a baby blanket and took her outside for a walk one cold frosty morning and one of the elastics in her legs broke. Mom and Dad returned her to Eaton's and they sent me another, but she never took the place of the first one because this one was fair-haired and blue-eved. Then Mother gave me a doll she had when she was a little girl, dressed in pantaloons and all; but I'm afraid she went the way of most little girl's dolls. I often went out to watch Mother and Dad milk cows and remember wanting to help, even though I couldn't even squeeze the milk out of their teats. The boys thought it a great joke when Dad squirted milk into their mouths, and the cats were always sitting around waiting for a warm dish of milk. They often got a few squirts from Dad as well. That must have been the winter too, that my little brother Harold got his tongue stuck to a block of blue salt in the barnyard for the cows. Mother had to come in and get a kettle of boiling water to pour around the area near his tongue to get it unstuck.



Larry Suecroft's threshing outfit.

I remember beautiful sunny days and Dad separating milk in the kitchen. My brothers, Harold and Vernon, were there with their tin cups, holding them under the skim milk spout to catch the foamy milk. Vernon was the greatest one for that. John and I used to pull Harold around in the little wooden wagon Daddy had made us and there was an old iron stove outdoors that we used to make mud pies on. Daddy had also made me a little kitty-car and my pride and joy was a playhouse Dad had made me out of lumber. It had a floor and a little window beside the door. I used to play house there with my dollies by the hour; and sometimes my cousins, Florence, Ellen and Mildred would come over and play too. Uncle Conrad Halladay and Aunt Frances lived about ½ mile east of us, across the meadows and two creeks. Their house was set in a tall grove of Xmas tree.

Our home was a one-room log cabin with an upstairs in it. The cracks between the logs were filled

with plaster made of a mixture of mud, straw and whitewash.

Our neighbors to the north were Mr. and Mrs. Dan Macaulay and their daughter Annie. They ran the Week Creek Post Office in their house. I remember us kids walking down across our meadows between the two creeks; crawling through the fence into McCaulay's and across their meadow, through the spruce trees about a 1/4 of a mile or so, making sure we stayed away from the muskeg or bogs off the trail. I used to have a ball when we went to Macaulay's. One of my favorite pastimes was cutting out paper dolls and in those days the toilets were outdoors and the toilet paper was newspapers and catalogues. Since the Macaulay's had no small children, there were lots of catalogues piled in the toilet and here was all these beautiful paper dolls for me to rip out and take home. Then just back of the elder Macaulay's house was a beautiful big garden and beyond that was a lovely frame house that was the home of their son Joe and his wife Verlie. My! I used to think, what a lovely house! She had linoleum on the floor. A lovely china cabinet with beautiful dishes in it and she had a piano. And no flies in the house! Now I know why - because they hadn't a dozen kids running in and out, leaving the door open behind them or standing, holding it open. Sometimes May Macaulay would be staying with her grandpa and grandma. She was the eldest daughter of their son Harry Macaulay and they lived south toward Pigeon Lake.

I remember the spring my brother Lawrence was born, April 1930. In the morning I went upstairs to see my new baby brother and I thought he was the homeliest baby I'd ever seen. He had thick, long, black hair and his face was so wrinkled. By the way, Lawrence is supposed to have been the new "Doc Hankin's" first baby.

Mom and Dad used to drive all the way to Millet by team to get groceries. When the summer came along, it was berry-picking time: first the strawberries, the saskatoons, the dewberries, raspberries, and then toward fall the blueberries and huckleberries, the high bush cranberries, chokecherries and also low bush cranberries. Sundays Dad used to take a pail and dish and take off to the berry patch and many days Mother packed up us kids, made a lunch and went up on the big hill on Pott's place to pick strawberries and blueberries.

Then in 1930 the school of Centre Lodge was built and my brother John, 9 years old, and myself, 6½ years, started off to school in September of that year. Our first teacher was Mrs. Rogers, and she had 2 children, a boy Crayton and a younger girl, about my age, named Marie. As near as I can remember, the oldest children attending were Isadore Bergstrom, Vernon Stellmaker, Gus, Alf, Ingvar and Glen Wickstrom, Walter and Alex Dublanko, Sophia Dublanko, Barnard, Ruth, Alta and Edgar Peters, Julie and Millie Arciszewski, my cousins, Ellen,

Florence and Mildred Halladay, Hedwig and Erna Elgert, Robert and James Peck. Our second teacher was Edith Callaway and my last teacher was Miss Iva Smith. Anna Wickstrom came in as a teacher the same year I tried to take Grade 9, and my sister Kathleen was ready to start school soon. There was a teacherage above the school. It was kind of cute.

After us kids got used to going to school we walked across Sec. 11, following a cow-path kitty-corner to the corner of Bill Dublanko's place, and often across Dublanko's to the school, which was built on a small piece of Bill Dublanko's farm, about a 1/3 mile from their farm buildings. Winter-time was dark when we got home. I remember one cold winter morning in particular; we were following the road through Sec. 11, when a coyote ran across the road in front of us. I was so scared I wanted John to turn around and go home but nothing bothered John. It was keep going and not be late! I remember one summer day when we were older, the bell had rung before we got to school. That was it! John turned around and back home we went.



Harold, Gladys & Lawrence (in tow) Halladay, on way to Centre Lodge School, 1944.

We left the C.P.R. in the summer of 1931 and left to move onto Lilly Carmichael's place. But, when we arrived there, loaded down with our belongings, the neighbor came over from across the road and informed us he had just bought the place himself for taxes. Us kids were so excited, running through the barns and the house, exploring everything. There was an upstairs in the house and downstairs there was an organ, a couch and a life-like stuffed baby doll. We were so disappointed at not being able to call this our home. However, we turned around and went back to Uncle Connie's place which was now empty and we lived there until the next summer or spring.

The folks then moved east to Russell Wagar's place. And that has been home ever since to Arthur and Olive Halladay. Here we had a low log house with no upstairs but a kitchen, dining room and two bedrooms. There was a pantry between the two bedrooms and off the kitchen. There was a cellar

under the pantry in which to store our vegetables and canned fruit.

I remember going fishing with Dad one early winter day. We'd gone about ½ mile, when we saw my brother John coming behind us, on his sled that Dad had made him, pulled by our big, long-legged dog called Bob. Dad had forgotten his fishing license so John brought it to him by dog sled. That old dog sure loved to pull us kids around on the sleigh. Dad had made him a harness out of leather with all the little rivet decorations on it. Dad and Uncle had a caboose with a tin stove in it which they had taken out on the lake that day to warm their hands when necessary. Some days it was pretty terrible out there on the ice, especially when a blizzard came up.

When we moved to Russell Wagar's place, our new neighbors consisted of Mary and Esca Peters on the farm west of us; Mr. Donald McLean across the road south of us. He was a confirmed bachelor. Across the creek, east of Mr. McLean were Mr. and Mrs. Mikula, with 3 of their children living with them: Annie, Mike and Mary. Mary and Esca Peters had 6 children: Barnard, Ruth, Alta, Edgar, Ethel and Violet. Mr. Peters' aged mother, Mrs. Groggin, also lived with them. Up the hill, east of us lived Mr. and Mrs. John Wagar. Their old home still stands on the hill of the homeplace.

There were no roads to our school from our new home. Peters' kids rode horseback to school and there was about 1/2 mile on the east side of Section 11, that was all burnt holes and stumps, usually full of water. The men got together eventually and put a corduroy road across that stretch of water and piled the stumps along the fence line. But I remember when the snow melted and the spring floods came. Many times John and I walked from stump to stump hanging onto the barbed wire fence to get across that strip of water holes and you had to be sure you didn't miss a stump and slip into one of those holes. I remember one day on the way home from school; the Peters' kids had given John and me a ride behind. John got on behind Barnard and Edgar and I got on behind Ruth and Alta. We just started to cross that half mile of water holes. Right in front of Tom Dublanko's house was a deep burnt hole; must have been all of 3 feet deep. Ruth's horse stepped down in



Arthur Halladay's wood sawing Bee. John & Henry Shymansky, Claude Wager, Arthur & sons Harold & Vernon, 1945.

that hole and off I went, pulling Alta and Ruth in with me. We were sure some wet kids when we got home that day.

Summer days were fun days though; on the way home from school we'd go all over through those burnt holes, having a ball, sometimes riding on a raft that the boys had made, and sometimes drowning gophers. We used to fill our dinner pails (which in those days was a bright yellow or red 2 lb. lard pail with a lid on) with water and pour it down a gopher hole, and the gophers would have to crawl out through one of their other exits. By this time my brothers Harold and Vernon were going to school and Ethel and Violet Peters were also going. Esca Peters moved away in 1934. John Stashko's moved south of Connie Halladay's in the early 30's. Dennis and Jim were near the same age as my brothers Vernon and Lawrence.

In the summer us kids used to love to go watch Dad putting up hay, cutting first with the mower, then raking. When it was dry enough it was put in coils until the time to take it to the barn lofts and the hay corrals to stack for winter feed. We used to climb on the hayrack and stomp the hay down for Dad as he threw on the coils. Mother always sent lunch to the fields for Dad.

The last day of school was always something to look forward to and to be remembered. The parents brought sandwiches, cakes and cookies. The school board or teacher supplied ice cream and 8 gal. milk cans were brought and filled with ice water and lemonade. After the picnic there were races of all kinds and then the ball games between the fathers and the school children. There was a bachelor, who lived across the road from the school, by the name of Tom Ripper. He used to be included in our school picnics.



Ralph & Barbara Halladay, 1946, enjoying the future basement of their home.

How I wish my children could have some of the wonderful memories I have of my childhood. Xmas at our house was very special too. The opening of presents early in the morning, Dad passing them out to each of us by name. Our stockings were hung at the foot of the bed and the first thing we looked to see if Santa had left us our candy bag, and it was

always there. Then there was the Christmas Dinner—roast turkey, brown gravy, vegetables, Mother's homemade Xmas pudding and mincemeat pies, always, without fail every Xmas, was our two guests, Mr. Donald McLean and Mr. Tom Ripper. Mr. Ripper always brought a bottle of Heinz Catsup to us kids and that was a rare treat. Supper time was Xmas Cake and canned fruit. We usually had strawberries or raspberries too.

In 1934, after Esca Peters moved away, we had new neighbors who moved onto the farm adjoining Mother and Dad's. I was still a barefoot girl, going to school, when I first met our new neighbors and I fell in love with the oldest boy, Bill Suecroft. He had 3 younger brothers, Walter, Fred and Larry and they lived with their invalid mother. She was a very nice person but the boys had to help her a lot with the housework and she could speak no English. Little Larry, as he was called, went to Centre Lodge School with us for 2 years. He was just a year or so older than me. He was a great cowboy, loved to sing and yodel, always wore a big cowboy hat, rode the little Silver pony and always had his lariat hanging on his saddle horn. He had a great habit of chasing the girls and catching them with his lariat. Bill was hardworking and I imagine it was a big responsibility to raise his younger brothers and look after his mother. Boy, could he ever dance, though! He was so nimble on his feet and he could sure do that Cossack dance, turning somersaults and all. We used to have house parties on weekends, at different homes each Saturday. They were nice clean dances. Somebody would bring their musical instrument. Space would be made in the front room for the dancers. Some boys played the guitar and sang. The MaCaulay boy's were real fiddle players, including some of Harry MaCaulay's sons.

Bill Suecroft and I were married on Nov. 20, 1942. Bill went into the army in Jan., 1943. He took his basic training in Edmonton for 3 months, then went east for his advanced training. He came back for in May, 1943 and I went back to Bedford, Nova Scotia with him and stayed there with him until he was shipped overseas in June of 1943.

My brother John had joined up along with Glen Wickstrom in the spring of 1942 and was already overseas when I was married in November. I returned to my Mother and Dad's after Bill went overseas and Dad built me a small 2-room house in his yard which I moved into with my baby son when I brought him home from the hospital in March, 1944. Bill returned from overseas in January, 1946 after the war. For a time he worked in Edmonton as a carpenter and then we got a ½ of Sec. 11. Bill spent winters and parts of the summers working in the oilfield and clearing his farm in the summer. We had to clear so many acres every year and seed so many acres to crop each year. From 1944 to 1964 we raised a family of 4 boys and 4 girls.

In 1966, in September, my husband Bill passed

away of a heart attack. In the spring of 1967 I bought a house in the city and moved in May with my daughters Diane, Marie and Joy, and my baby son of only 2½ years. Diane was born with cerebral palsy and spent her life in a wheelchair. She still lives with me at home. My youngest son, James is home yet as he is only 14 years old. He's a very nice boy. My boys were David, Gary, Gerry and James; and my girls were Shirley, Diane, Marie and Leila Joy. I now have 13 grandchildren; 3 grandsons and 10 granddaughters.

I met and married my present husband Jack

Windsor in April 1969.

In May of 1978, this year, the children of Mrs. Olive Halladay, gave her a surprise Mother's Day party and as many relatives as were able to be, were on hand to wish her well. They say there were a total of 72, children, grandchildren, and greatgrandchildren. Mother and Dad had 8 children.

Note: Gladys Halladay Windsor died of cancer in December, 1978.

THE VINCENT ZUKAUSK FAMILY

by Antose Shymansky

Vincent and Magda Zukausk were born, raised and married in Lithuania. Their daughter Antose was born there. Vincent came to the Falun area in 1928. There he worked for awhile to get enough money to buy some land, horses, cattle and machinery. In 1930 he sent for his wife and daughter. Later, 2 more daughters were born to them - Aldonna and Adele.

In 1943, they bought land in the Thorsby district (NW 36-47-1 W5). They lived there until 1947, when they bought another farm in the Millet area. They lived there until 1963, when they sold out and moved to Vancouver. They are now retired.

Antose (Mrs. Henry Shymansky) lives in Leduc now. She has 3 daughters; Darlene, Patricia and Debbie.

Aldonna (Mrs. Wilson) lives in Burnaby, B.C. and has one son, Randy.

Adele (Mrs. Jim Garrison) lives in Minnesota, U.S.A. and has one son, Danny.

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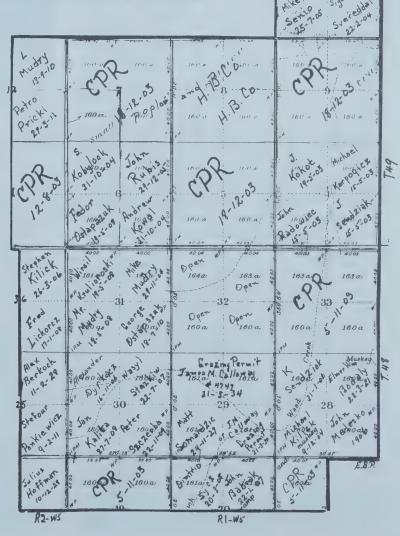


First Dniester School from rear of building Stairway leading to upper living quarters.

School District To. 2716 April 25, 1912

The First Homesteaders and Grants to the C.P.R. and the Hudson Bay Company

The Information on this map courtesy of: Alberta Provincial Museum and Archives and Alberta Government Map Division



DNIESTER SCHOOL #2716

Information gathered by Gwendolyn Ross

Records show the Dniester School board was organized in 1912, the first minutes were written in the Ukrainian language. Excerpts from April 1, 1912 meeting. "Taxes were set at \$10.00. Lue Mudry as contractor signed an agreement to borrow money".

The school was registered by secretary, John Babiak, on April 25, 1912. Homestead records show John Babiak filed on NE 20-48-1-W5 on Jan. 22, 1907.

July 12, 1912 meeting, excerpt. "Metro Sych paid taxes that year of \$11.60 but worked out \$5.00 of that". His homestead was NW 20-48-1-W5, filed on March 20, 1908 (Dmitrio Sycz).

Nov. 27, 1912 Cash Book showed, John Babiak \$10.00 for hauling lumber and taxes. Joseph Sendziak brought lumber from sawmill, \$5.00 was applied to taxes. His homestead was SE 4-49-1-W5 filed on May 15, 1903.

Mike Karprowicz (homestead NE 4-49-1-W5, filed on May 15, 1903) hauled lumber twice (no fee mentioned). Sam Kobeluck hauled lumber 4 times for \$14.00. Andrew Kowal brought lumber 4 times for \$11.50. Mike Mudry hauled lumber 2 times for \$9.00. J. Sendziak hauled lumber sills \$22.50. Alex Derkascz cleared land for \$39.50. Dec. 31, 1912 Lue Mudry secretary for 8 months \$26.75".

Jan. 1, 1913 meeting. Taxes were left at \$10.00 and March 3, meeting showed Alex Derkascz worked \$2.00 off his taxes.

Lue Mudry built the school at a cost of \$210.00 and finished it on June 20, 1913. It was built of lumber, and was located on the homestead of Mike Mudry records show, the NE 31-38-1-W5 which he filed on Nov. 29, 1904. On Dec. 19, 1913 annual meeting was held in Mike Mudry's home and he was chairman. Elections were held with votes cast for; Mike Mudry 12, Joseph Sendziak 11, Metro Sych 7 and Sam Kobeluck 5. Opening of school was set for Jan. 1, 1914.

Dec. 30. 1913 minutes showed J. Sendziak took a contract to fence the school yard for 9¢ a post. Lue Mudry took contract for toilets and closets in the school for \$37.00

The Cash Book showed expenditures for 1913 of, Canadian Pacific Co. for site of school \$30.15. A. Stone for Lumber \$55.00, Carl Ohrn lumber \$73.35. J.F. Stiles \$114.97, A. Dedio \$15.25. Christies Book Store, Brandon, Man. \$13.15. Mike Mudry carpenter work \$75.00. C.E.A. Semands for insurance \$34.50. Lue Mudry building contract \$100.00, J.F. Stiles for lumber \$150.00, John Radowits hauling lumber \$10.00, C.W. Gaetz for hardware-lumber \$32.50. Mike Mudry building contract \$35.00. J.F. Stiles for lumber \$26.00. Peter Szcerba secretary-treasurer \$10.00 (salary), Lue Mudry for building chimney \$8.00. Mike Molyneux auditing books \$10.50 (for 1912 and '13). C.P.R. for freight and Lue Mudry

\$1.45. Total \$796.87 and school debenture for 1913 was \$799.00.

Others paid in 1913 were John Babiak, Feb. 10, \$11.00. Peter Szczerba Feb. 15 \$11.00. Metro Sych July 12, \$11.60. Alberta School Supply Co. amt. for debentures issue \$800.00. M. Karopowicz was probably janitor as he was paid \$18.00 for 3 months work in Dec., 1914.

Teachers at Dniester, first one, Ross R. Annett, August 1914 with \$50.00 paid to him on Nov. 21, 1914.



First teacher at Dniester School. Taught 4 months in 1914. Later became well known author. In May 1978 he revisited the school and posed for this picture.

Jan. 13, 1915 annual meeting was held in school house. Opened by chairman M.O. Nelson with 15 ratepayers present. Mr. Ostrosky of the Public Works Dept. acted as interpreter. The inspector's report was read and explained. The finances of the district were thoroughly explained by the chairman with a full discussion following and many questions asked. At the close of the meeting the ratepayers asked unanimously for Mr. Nelson to continue as their official trustee for the present time. He signed the minutes of the meeting.

The 1915 accounts showed a deficit from 1914 of \$22.00 for William Hudson and R.R. Annett.

Mr. Annett only taught for a few months and then joined the Canadian Armed Forces in the First W.W. When he returned from the war, he resumed teaching in another area and later became a famous author. The next teacher was E.L. Chicanot and he commenced in Jan., 1915. In June, 1916 Mr. Wershoff was receiving pay as a teacher according to the Cash Book.

Mike Karopowicz was paid \$20.50 as caretaker in 1916. In 1917, Mr. Beeson taught. It was interesting to note that the teachers were only paid in installments those years. Beeson received \$5.00 on Jan. 8, Jan. 25 he received the Govt. Grant of \$55.95 and balance of \$6.25. Feb. 22 he received \$50.00, March 24 he was paid \$25.00. April 20 he received another \$35.00.

June 30 he was given \$50.00, July 21, he received \$134.00 and the end of that month he received \$122.35.

In 1918 Francis Hatch came to teach, then Mrs. Brown taught 108 days in 1919 and received \$375.35. They seemed to be teaching in July and August during some of those years. On Nov. 4, 1919 Francis Hatch was back again and taught until mid-term 1922, then Edwin N. Peterson took over until July 1, 1923.

Mrs. Beulah Hale taught from then until the end of the 1925 summer term. Sept. of 1925, Mrs. Amy Keane taught until February of 1926 when John Dunnigan taught for the next year when Wilfred Fors replaced him for the term of 1927-'28.

The minute book contained some interesting facts during the early years. "The May 30, 1919 meeting was arranged for this date but due to a raging snow storm the ratepayers did not come to the meeting". Signed, George W. Robertson, official trustee. One wonders how he arrived at the school if it was too stormy for the local school board to come out.

"Half annual meeting June 28, 1920, called by Geo. Robertson, at 8 p.m. for purpose of general discussion of district. His interpreter was L.K. Cieslinski." "A talk was made that the official trustee should turn over to the people of the district the financial accounts and books to the new committee".

"It was moved by Mike Mudry and seconded by Sam Kobeluck to nominate Harry Ostapchuk as trustee for 3 years. Moved by S. Derkacz and seconded by S. Pankewicz to nominate S. Arciszewski as trustee for 2 years. Moved by Fred Lickacz and seconded by Thomas Mudry to nominate Mike Mudry as trustee for 1 year. Same time M. Mudry was appointed chairman. The elected board of trustees same time called L.K. Cieslinski as sec.-treas."

"Discussion on time for vacation period. It was moved by ratepayers and voted on and carried to have the vacation period fall between Aug. 15 and Oct. 15".

On Dec. 29, 1920 Anton Dedio was elected trustee for 1 year and appointed chairman. L.K. Cieslinski received \$40.00 that year as sec.-treas.

Oct. 15, 1921 a special meeting of ratepayers was arranged, but due to the prairie fire running at large, a very few ratepayers came to the meeting. "The sec. moved, seconded by Arciszewski, that the school house must be fireguarded at once as the damaging fire is near it". Radowits took charge of plowing and fireguard around the school. He was also to fix the closets, fence, pole for the flag, gates, finish windows, and to bank the schoolhouse (pile dirt against the lower walls to make the floor warmer in winter). He would receive \$15.00 for all this work.

In 1922 Mike Lickacz took a contract to supply wood for 1 year for \$27.50 per annum. A special meeting was called on May 27, 1922 to elect a new secretary-treas. Mike Radowits was elected at the rate of \$30.00 per annum. These were the first minutes to be signed in the book by both sec. and chairman. S. Arciszewski was chairman.

August 19, 1922 a special ratepayers meeting was called to get someone to clean the teacher's residence (upstairs over the school), put 4 desks together and clean the pipes and chimney. Fred Lickacz took the job at price of \$3.50 with another 50¢ for "driving nails in the floor.'

Jan. 13, 1923 annual meeting elected J.M. Callway trustee for 3 years. "The estimate was made by the board of trustees authorizing the Council of Rural Municipalities # 490 to collect for them \$1400.00 to cover the expenses of the school for the present year."

Special school board meeting May 9, 1923 at home of Mike Radowits, to discuss matter between Dniester and Falconer schools. A letter was received from Falconer asking if some pupils could attend Dniester. It was passed at this meeting "that the children will not be admitted as there is no room for them in the school. Also a resolution was passed that both desks and door be repaired which was broken by the children. From now on, the teacher shall see that there is no more damage made in the school by children."If so, such thing to be replaced new by parents. Also legal proceedings to be taken against Weed Creek S.D. in order to collect the pupils' fees which they owed". Mike Radowits sec.-treas. S. Pankewicz chairman.

Special ratepayers meeting July 18, 1925. excerpts. Bids were offered to pay anyone for putting 5 new desks together and moving the toilets to a different place. Job was taken by Bill Radowits for sum of \$4.75. John Fink took the job of fixing the fence around the school ground for sum of \$5.00. It was also moved by the board that a barn should be built — size 42 x 12 x 10 ft., 6 x 6 tamarac sills and 6-inch drop siding for the walls. Said barn to be tendered.

Special meeting June 21, 1926 called at 5 p.m. to receive bids for repairing of buildings and putting grass on school grounds. Mike Lekoch's bid for \$50.00 for painting school house, barn and closets was accepted. It was agreed he must paint the school blue, the barn twice with red paint and the corners white. The closets are to be painted blue and only the walls of the school. The job must be completed by Sept. 1.

John Fink's bid of \$10.00 was accepted for plowing, discing, harrowing and seeding of the school grounds. Roots must be picked up. Oats, timothy and clover must be seeded mixed. He can have the crop for 3 years and job must be finished by July 15. Mike Lekoch also bid \$3.00 for putting in new stairs at the back of the school, must supply his own lumber etc. The stairs are to be planed and painted.

Annual meeting Jan. 11, 1927. Excerpts. "J.F. Dedio appointed chairman. Fred Massner's bid was accepted for janitor at \$3.85 a month. He would supply wood for the school at \$3.75 a cord; it would need about 10 cords. John Fink's bid was accepted for fixing fences and keeping them in good shape for the year for \$10.00. John Fink suggested the Canadian Club should not hold any of their meetings in the schoolhouse. A standing vote was taken 11-4 against them using the school. A standing vote was also taken if any dances should be held in school. The majority voted no dances. It was also voted the Germans could not have their church in the schoolhouse. Andrew Melesko was elected as trustee to replace Mike Prytula". (Canadian Club was a community group).

"Special ratepayers meeting called Feb. 4, 1928 for purpose of new additional school. Chairman Mike Radowits said they needed to build a new school. Altogether ratepayers were not satisfied about that, because he wanted to cut down inspector's plan". Special meeting called April 21, 1928. "The ratepayers voted for a one-room school for 40 pupils. They all decided it would be good enough, and with the old school, to reset the windows from the west side to the east side and nail those spaces over and to put the old school on foundation if it won't cost too much."

The new school should start not later than July 1, 1928. John Bauman's bid for cleaning the barn was accepted for \$1.65. Bids were offered for fixing the old school. Harry Ostapchuk's bid was accepted for sum of \$14.50.

Special meeting of school board Nov. 30, 1928. "Motion made by John Roos that school district borrow an amount not exceeding the debenture issue (\$2500.00) from Royal Bank of Canada in Leduc for purpose of paying expenses of the new school building. Payment to be made to F. Mudry contractor".

Dec. 17, 1928 a Waterman-Waterbury heater was purchased for \$208.00 for the new school. Annual meeting Jan. 12, 1929. Mrs. Mike Mudry was to be paid for janitor work for both schools at \$9.25 per month. Work to include starting of fires, sweeping, scrubbing of floors twice a month and washing of windows once a month in summer". Mrs. Mudry lived 1 mile from the school and walked to perform her duties.

Sept., 1928 two teachers were hired for the 2 schools. Misses Margaret McDonald at \$1005.75 and M.E. McDonald at \$324.00 In 1929, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L. Fox came to teach at a combined salary of \$2100.00 per annum.

Jan. 16, 1931 it was decided to transfer the school's banking business to the Thorsby bank. That June it was decided to purchase 5 gals. boiled linseed oil and 2 gals. turpentine to use in oiling the floors of the 2 schools. It was decided to keep Mr. and Mrs. Fox as teachers at a reduction in salary of 15% which would give him \$935.00 for the senior room and her \$850.00 for the lower room.

The voters list of April 9, 1928 listed. Steve Pankewicz, Steve Cieslinski, Andrew Beierbach, John Bauman, Mrs. W. Bauman, Bill Rasch, Paul Fink, Mrs. S. Kobeluck, Mike Kuzio, Mrs. Fred Leckoch, Mrs. M. Callaway, John Roos, John Senio, Frank Dedio, Mr. and Mrs. E.R. Charlton, Mike Chrunik, Mike Prytula, Wm. Radowits, Chris Thompson, John Herman, Jack Errington, Fred Massner, Harry Ostapchuk, Mrs. M. Canfield, Tom Dedio, Harry Melesko, R. Krause, George Schultz, Sam Paskowski, Mike Radowits, P.B. Callaway, Andrew Melesko, Alex Chrunik, Mrs. and Mrs. Martin Herman, Mike Mudry, John Meckley, J.M. Callaway, John Fink, S. Arceszewski, Mrs. J. Pankewicz, Mrs. J. Embree, Joe Dedio, Mike Lickocz. Feb... 1925 poll book:

Fanny Samardzic, Mrs. Pearl Bodaly, Jennie Melesko, Elizabeth Roos, Marie Ostapchuk, Mrs. Jennie Radowits, Mrs. Katie Mudry, Anna Kobeluck, Anna

Leckoch.

Minutes of Dec. 3, 1932. Excerpts. "It was decided to place a jacket around stove in old school. M.E. Kuzio to arrange for same with \$5.00 allowed for material etc. An item of \$1.00 was allowed for Thelma Callaway for oiling the school floors. The Bd. was ordering 5 new double and 5 new single desks on advice on teacher Mrs. Anna Fox". In 1934 a contract for 20 cords of wood was accepted by Pete Leckoch at \$1.10 a cord, to be, 5 cords dry tamarac, 5 green wood 1 ft. in length, 5 cords dry tamarac, and 5 cords green wood 2 ft. long. Wood to be split and ricked up. "Contract for coal to M.J. Canfield at \$4.50 per ton delivered, must be good coal."

June 3, 1934 meeting excerpts. Letter was read from Dept. of Health regarding the immunizing of children against smallpox and diphtheria. Sec. was instructed to write Minister of Education for permission to engage the teachers for next year at a salary of \$600.00 each. June 30, 1934. Excerpt. Letter received giving permission to hire senior teacher for \$700.00 and junior at \$600.00 was read.

June 27, 1936, Excerpt from minutes: Motion by John Roos that district employ Mr. and Mrs. Fox as teachers provided they accepted \$1200.00 in payment as salaries for both rooms. Motion seconded by Metro Kobeluck and carried. Mr. and Mrs. Fox were called in and agreed to accept salaries.

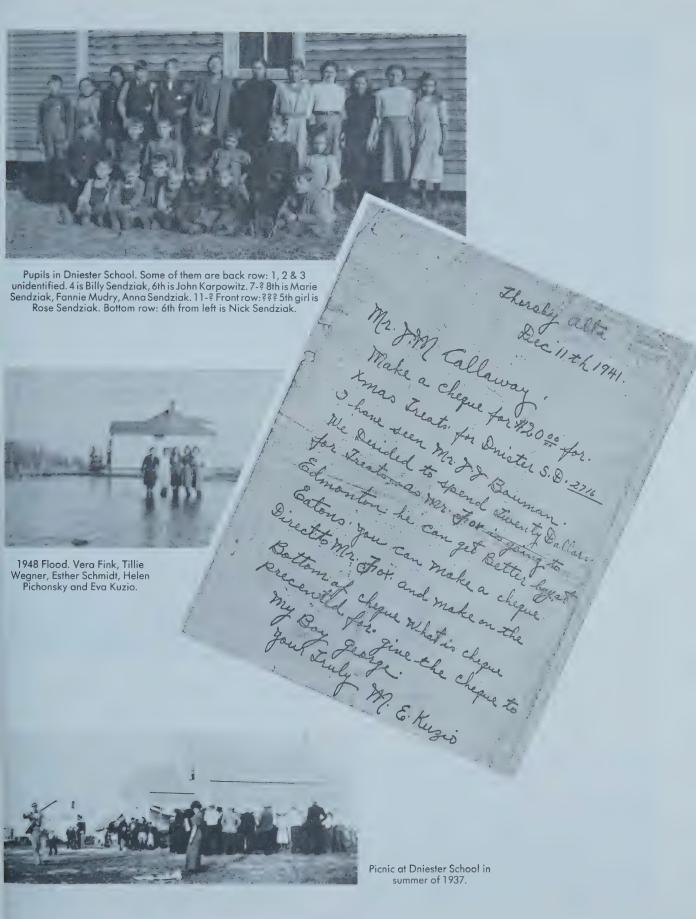
June 3, 1939. Excerpt. Motion by M.E. Kuzio to pay Alex Riddock the sum of \$15.00 for truck service in transporting school children to Edmonton to see their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Regular meeting Dec. 2, 1939. Bills approved for payment were \$1.25 to John Hier for labour and N. Stellmaker \$10.00 for coal. Thorsby Traders \$10.00

for supplies.

Special Board meeting Sept. 20, 1941. Mr. G. Mealing and Mr. E.L. Fox were present as members of the teacher's negotiating committee for purpose of coming to some understanding regarding teachers salaries in current year. A letter from Dept. of Education was read and after considerable discussion motion was made by M.E. Kuzio, seconded by John Bauman that senior teacher be paid \$900.00 per annum and junior teacher be paid \$840.00. Agreement was signed at those rates.

Special Bd. meeting Dec. 27, 1941. The secretary was instructed to fulfill all requirements of the acting secretary of the Strawberry S.D. #49 and close and





Dniester School in 1950 with teacher Mrs. Jennie Vaughn. L. to R. Back row: Lawrence Hunker, Walter Pichonsky, Larry Kuzio, Gordon Ostapchuk, Gordon Schmidt, Safroni Hanas, Fred Kuzio, Dan Kuzio, Keith Green, Ken Green and Joe Hanas. Second row: 3 girls behind teacher, Jane Kobeluck, Dianne Friedenberg, Gladys Hunker. Front row: Dwight Green, Carole Ross, Phyllys Radowits, Gloria Myrhaugen, Elizabeth Klymko, Olga Paskowski, Mrs. Vaughn, June Kobeluck, Mary Paskowski, Jim Mudry, Carole Friedenberg, Shirley Kuzio, Norman Ostapchuk and Violet Gebhardt.



Dniester School 1936, grades 1 to 4. L. to R. Back row: Mike Pichonsky, Glen Fink, Alex Radowits, Fred Fink, George Kuzio, Edwin Massner, Fred Massner, Fred Hoffman, Harold Brod, Steve Lekoch, Isabel Roos and Lloyd Fink. Front row: Florence Mudry, Sophie Lekoch, Leah Kunkel, Frances Pankewicz, Frieda Hoffman, Alma Bauman, Edna Massner, Millie Kuzio, Edna Brod, Leah Bauman and Erna Brod.

deliver his books and records as directed. Meeting adjourned, M.E. Kuzio sec.-treas. J.M. Callaway chairman. School register Dniester S.D. No. 2716, September 1931 E.L. Fox teacher. Grade 9. Anna Kits, Shirley Callaway. Grade 8. Andrew Kanus, Anna Radowits. Grade 7. Emma Sulz, Jacob Sulz, Fred Pankewicz, Mary Kits. Grade 6, Jean Callaway, Henry Sulz, Fred Derkoch, William Mudry, Peter Kuzio, Peter Chrunik, Joe Lekoch. Grade 5, Annie Fink, Irene Chichoski, Wm. Lekoch, John Kobeluck, Gwen Callaway, Effie Mudry, Mary Kobeluck, Victor

Kobeluck, Arthur Massner, Jonah Meckle, Emmanuel Meckle, Mike Pankewicz.

School register Dniester June 1950 when only one school was open with Mrs. Jennie Vaughn teacher. Grade 4, Jane Kobeluck, Danny Kuzio, Walter Pichonsky. Grade 3, Dianne Friedenberg, Kenneth Green, Gladys Hunker, Mary Paskowski, Gordon Schmidt. Grade 2, Violet Giebhardt. Grade 1, Carole Ross, Carolyn Friedenberg, Safroni Hanas, Elizabeth Klymko, Fred Kuzio, Larry Kuzio, Gordon Ostapchuk, Norman Ostapchuk, Phyllys Radowits.

FIRE AT DNIESTER

by Patricia Lefsrud

Mrs. (Clee) Beulah Hale recalls her hair-raising encounter with a bush fire.

One beautiful, early-spring morning in 1924, Mrs. Zimmerman, Beulah's mother, stood admiring nature through a window of the teacherage above the Dniester school. All was serene out there except for a rising breeze rustling the tall, dry grass; a few gophers scampering about; and a couple of robins trying to choose a building site--what was that? Smoke was rising from the bushes, only about seventy yards away.

Suddenly, there was a blaze, then flames, being fanned by the rising breeze in the direction of the

building.

All a-dither, the poor woman almost panicked. What should she do? If the fire were to catch in the dry grass between the bushes and the school house, the latter would be engulfed in no time.

Should she run to the nearest neighbors for help?

If Beulah were alerted, she would panic.

Good-bye to the school house!

But, there was no time to lose. Mrs. Zimmerman rushed down to the classroom--where no one was aware of any impending danger--shouting, "Fire! Fire!".



Dniester School with old school in background.

Surprisingly, Beulah remained calm. In the manner of a battlefield Colonel, she ordered one of the older girls, Edith Callaway, to keep all the youngsters in the room, ordered her mother back upstairs for rags, sacks and water pails, and the bigger boys, Eddie Hanson, Fred Radowits, Bill Kobeluck, and Aubrey Zeiner Jr., to help her burn off the grass between the bushes and the school building.

Working furiously, Mrs. Hale (pregnant, though, she was), and the boys had backfired sufficiently, by 1:00 P.M., to keep the building out of reach of the flames.

Due to the heavy forest in the area, obscuring the view, only two of the settlers had been aware of the fire threatening the school house-with their children in it - Mrs. Canfield, having spied the smoke and the flames through a clearing in the forest, and Aubrey Zeiner Sr., who happened to be passing by.

The latter, by the way, remained at the site of the fire to keep an eye on the still smouldering roots of the bushes, while Mrs. Hale, bleary-eyed and tired, changed from her smoke-smudged clothing, and resumed her classes for the rest of the afternoon.

THE STORY OF JOHN AND BESSIE BABIAK AND FAMILY

Related by their Children

Our Dad came to Canada in 1905 from Europe and homesteaded 6 miles south west of Thorsby which was later the George Pichonsky farm. During the winter Dad worked in a coal mine. He met and married Bessie Dedio in 1908.

The nearest railway was Leduc, and there weren't any graded roads, only trails where occasionally we saw Indians drive by with horses and wagon and some farmers drive by with oxen. Wild animals were plentiful; moose, deer, and occasionally bears were seen in the area. Dad organized a group of farmers to hunt the bear.

Dad had 2 horses, a walking plow and harrows to work up the land. The seeding was done by scattering the seed by hand. During the first few years of farming Dad cut grain with a sickle and scythe and tied it with straw and threshed it with a flail.

In 1912 Dad was secretary of the Dniester School which was 2 miles north and 1 mile west of the homestead; he was also a musician and played the violin at local weddings and parties. He was also a barber and cut hair for the boys at home and for many neighbors in the the area.

Five of their 6 children were born on this homestead, Anne, Bill, Dan, Nick, and Sophia. Anne and Bill went to Dniester School.

By 1918 there were about 30 acres broken; there was no hay meadow so Dad decided to sell this homestead and went looking for another farm and found a quarter of C.P.R. land 4 miles east of Thorsby. This quarter had about 30 acres of hay meadow, the rest was mostly bush. The first year Dad broke about 8 acres and built a small frame house. In December of the same year we all moved to the new farm; the neighbors helped us move.

Dad was active in the community hall. Mother participated in a local home nursing school program held in the district hall under the direction of a nurse from Edmonton. There weren't any doctors in the area at that time, so a program was held to help each mother care for their family in case of sickness and to be able to help others in the community.

In 1926, their youngest daughter Helen was born. Anne left home in 1928 to go to work in Edmonton where she worked for several years. She met and married Earl Strand and they had 3 sons, Ralph, Leonard and Richard. They are all married; Ralph and Richard live in Edmonton, Leonard lives in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

Anne and Earl were married 25 years when Earl passed away in 1960. Two years later Anne married Bill Soldan of Onoway where Bill was retired off the farm. Anne has been active in dress making and she is also involved in church work. She has 8 grandchildren. Her husband Bill Soldan passed away October 12, 1976. Anne continues to reside in Onoway.



Taken in 1928. Bessie & John Babiak, Sophie (R) & Helen (L).

In 1929 Dad had about 30 acres of new breaking. All the grain was hauled to Leduc by horses and wagon up until 1929 which was a 3-day return trip. Also in 1929 the C.P.R. railway was built and the town of Thorsby was started. Dad had about 110 acres of land under cultivation and sold only part of his crop before he became ill and passed away in October 1930, when the depression set in. Mother had a hard time during the depression to pay up all the debts that were left after Dad passed away, as the grain and cattle prices really dropped. Mom and the children helped to carry on the farm life until October 1937 when she passed away. The rest of the children stayed together on the farm until 1945.

After our mother died, Bill, Dan and Nick stayed home and farmed together for us and looked after our younger sister Helen. The farm was an estate in the hands of the Public Trustee.

Nick left the farm in 1938 and worked in Edmonton, truck driving. Nick met Ollie Churnish; they were married in Athabasca in June 1944. Nick built a new house in Edmonton and was employed there until the spring of 1950 when they sold their house and bought land at Athabasca where they went farming. Nick was a carpenter and built new houses for neighbors and Ollie's parents. He also built a new house for themselves and is presently farming 5 quarters of land and raising purebred Hereford cattle. Nick was involved with the Department of Agriculture.

Nick and Ollie have 2 children, Randy and Patricia. Randy has graduated from high school and is a Forest Ranger. Patricia is in her last year of high school and plans to enter into the career of hairdressing.

On November 1, 1939 Bill married Grace Larson of Buford, where her folks had a general store and later the Buford Post Office.

Sophia took over all household duties after their mother passed away, which was at the peak of the harvest season. Sophia kept up household duties for the family for 3 years until Bill got married. Sophia left the farm then and worked in Edmonton. She worked at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for a few years. After working at Swifts for several years she met Paul Berezowski and they were married. Paul is a welder and went to work in Prince George, B.C. where their 3 children were born - Penny, Terry and Glenn. They moved to Hinton in 1967 where Paul did welding work for the Pulp Mill and the surrounding area. They lived there until they sold their house in 1977 and bought an acreage near Athabasca where Sophia and Paul now reside. Their daughter Terry is also employed there. Penny is married to Mark Gorman and they have 1 son Paul. They live at Hinton. Glenn remained at Hinton where he is employed.

Helen left the farm in 1942 and worked in Edmonton for 2 years, 1 year at the Royal Alexandra Hospital and 1 year at Swifts. In November 1944 she married Alex Fryk of Glen Park.

Dan Babiak was born in 1913 and was about 6 years old when the family moved to their new farm in the Buford district. Dan attended the Progress school which was at that time $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Thorsby. To attend school he had to walk $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. In the winter Dan and his brothers and sisters would go to school with a horse and sleigh.



Dan Babiak with some of the violins that he made.

Dan was very fond of music from an early age, as his father John played the violin. He gave him his first violin when Dan was 12 years old. He played on it everyday until at the age of 17 he played for his first dance at the local hall. Since then he has played at many weddings and dances.

Dan left the farm in 1945 and went to work in Edmonton. He was employed at Dominion Bridge Co. for over 30 years, retiring in 1976 to pursue his hobby of violin making which he picked up in 1963. He has made 18 violins since and won first prize at a contest in Vancouver, B.C. Now he is building a cello and hopes to make many more instruments. Dan also loves dancing, bowling and golfing. "What a nice way to spend the best years of your life," he says.

JAMES M. CALLAWAY STORY

by J.M. Callaway in 1978 aged 91 years.

I first saw what is now known as the Thorsby district in the latter part of Aug., 1921. I contracted for 320 acres of C.P.R. land, which was the north half of section 21-48-1 W5 located about 30 miles S.W. of Leduc. I moved onto the land in May, 1922. The area was only sparcely populated, mostly with people from Europe who had settled on homesteads. There were the Kuzio, Melesko, Dool, Chrunik, Radowits, Kobeluck, Mudry, Ostapchuk, Pankewitz and other families located in the Dniester School area. The country was heavily timbered with many tamarack swamps caused by beaver dams.



Prospective settlers being shown a field of oats by a C.P.R. land agent. L. to R. Harvey J. Allred, Ed Brosman, J.M. Callaway and the agent.

The only graded road was the town line. Travelling country trails was the most common means of travel. Most cut lines were almost impassable because of swamps. We were about 10 miles from the Buford Store and P.O. where we got our mail and bought groceries. We had brought 20 head of livestock with us so feed was quite a problem. I had to travel long distances to find feed oats and straw. Hay was plentiful for cutting right on my home place.

Soon after we moved in other families came — the Stellmakers, Vaths, Dehlendorfs, Hales, Schoonovers and others. The Allred family had moved to their location in the fall of 1921. At the first annual meeting of the Dniester School District after we arrived, I was elected a member of the School Board. Later I was appointed secretary-treasurer of the Dniester School District, a position I held continuously for 15 years.

When the 2 miles of road north from my place to the town line was high graded I was instrumental in getting it graveled in the early 1950s. In the meantime the Warburg-Sunnybrook Mutual Telephone Co. had built a line connecting with Leduc. I built a line from my place north to connect with that line. At the first annual meeting I attended I was elected as a director for the Mutual Telephone Co. Later, I was elected president of the company, a position I held for several years. During the period of my presidency the Warburg-Sunnybrook Mutual service was extended from a one circuit unit to seven circuits.



The James M. Callaway family in front of their first barn being constructed in 1922-23.



J.M. Callaway at the age of 91 in 1979.

We arrived in the, now known, Thorsby area in 1922 To face conditions strange and new. The country to us was new and strange For we'd been used to the open range. The bush was heavy and very thick A condition we knew we had to lick. We settled down to a life of toil, To redeem and cultivate some virgin soil. 320 acres of C.P.R. land we had bought, And 20 head of livestock we had brought. The going was tough and progress slow, But eventually success began to show. After many years of sweat and toil I have proven the worth of Alberta soil.

The settlers of the, now known, Thorsby area at that time

Were mostly people from a foreign clime. They had weathered hardships of every form and shape

In efforts for themselves a home to make.

They had established a school and post office, too. So they were gradually winning their problems through.

They were people of undaunted courage and faith, And were descendants from a hardy, industrious

Their homeland had little of concrete benefits to give So they came looking for a better home life to live They laid the foundation for later progress made, And to them proper recognition should be paid.

We later settlers much benefits gained
From the amount of success they had attained.
In developing the Thorsby area to the place
Where much less difficulties were faced.
Surely, thanks to those first settlers are due
For weathering the trials and hardships through,
In laying the foundation in every way
That has made the Thorsby area that it is today.

by J.M. (Jim) Callaway.

Mr. Callaway died May 11, 1979, aged 92 years.

THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

By Linda Kisser

The Seventh Day Adventist Church of Thorsby began when a few families of the Adventist faith settled in the west. Two families settled in the Sunnybrook district and 2 families went further west to the Breton-Funnell district. This move took place between the years 1929-1931. There was little communication between these families at the time, for the distance was too far to travel with horse-drawn vehicles over the poor roads which were at times impassable.

The isolated members who didn't have a house of worship were referred to conference members and were mainly contacted by mail. Occasionally a Pastor would pay them a visit which didn't happen too often, for he had too large an area to take care of.



Seventh Day Adventist Church, Thorsby holding a Baptismal Service.

Times were soon to change. In 1932 The Rev. John D. Neufeld held a series of Evangelistic meetings in a large tent surrounded by spruce trees which stood on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Knopp and family. The attendance was overwhelming. The families from the Breton area didn't find it too far to travel to these meetings. These families were the Briers and Zotzmans. The A. Knopp family welcomed visitors from far and near and when the people weren't able to return home the same day, due to distance, their home was open with a welcome to stay. There was sleeping accommodation provided on beds, on floors, upstairs and downstairs. With their own large family to feed, they made room at the table for many more. The Brod home and the Bauman home equally welcomed, accommodated and dined the many visitors. These meetings were not only attended by the older people but by a host of young people. Through these efforts a good number joined the faith and were baptized in the waters of the Weed Creek.

In 1935 and '36 the families from Breton moved to the Sunnybrook district joining the Thorsby and Sunnybrook groups in worshipping together. Still no Church! Visits from the Pastor were more frequent now. Pastor J.D. Neufeld, being a great lover of young people and being musical himself, spent many evenings singing, playing instruments, organizing programs with the young people, and of course the seniors were not left out. There was lots of local talent developed.



Congregation of Seventh Day Adventists who met in A. Knopp's house in 1937. L. to R. Back row: Dan Mogdan, Hugo Gulde, Ed Remfert, Philip Brod, Fred Brier, Rudolph Zolzman, Mrs. R. Zotzman. Middle row: Mrs. A. Knopp, Mrs. F. Brier, Mrs. P. Brod, Mrs. H. Gulde, Mrs. E. Remfert, Mrs. D. Mogdan. Children in front are: Edna Brod, Olinda Brod, Harold Gulde, Erwin Zotzman, Ruth Mogdan on mother's lap.

Having no house of worship, the members met in their homes, taking turns every week. Some had to travel 25 miles a day either by horse and sleigh in winter, or by horse and buggy in the summer. Many walked, daring a rainstorm. Was it too much of an effort? No! Everybody looked forward to worship together. How joyously the voices rang out in the

clear crisp air when all joined in a chorus of songs while travelling homeward in a caravan of sleighs. It seemed even the horses were in tune, keeping time trotting away in the crunchy snow, with an occasional screech and scream of the sleigh runners, running over the hard frozen humps and lumps of snow. Sometime later the Weed Creek Union Church, a landmark on the P.B. Callaway farm, was rented by the Seventh Day Adventist group.

Plans for a new church were being realized, and in 1939 it was located on the corner of the Sulz farm, in the Dniester district. Everybody offered help, pledges of wheat from an acre of land were given, and cash which did not exceed \$15 per family. The House of Worship was made comfortable by a coal and wood

neater.

The first wedding ceremony was performed by Pastor C.C. Voth, uniting Irene Knopp and August Comm in marriage on December 5, 1940. Sometime

later the church was moved to another location ½ mile west on the Fink farm. There it stood for many years. In 1947 when it was finally completed it was dedicated for the service of God by Pastor Oswald, President of the Alberta Conference of the Seventh Day Adventists. If this little house of worship could talk, it could relate many happy events, ceremonies, programs and gatherings. Also sad ones, when a loved one was laid to rest. Pastors came and went. Young people grew up and established their own homes. Some went away from here, others stayed nearby.

In 1965 plans were made for a new and larger church. This church is now located in the village of Warburg and was dedicated on September 27, 1969.

The little country church which was a landmark to be remembered served its purpose and has since been removed to a farm near Pigeon Lake, leaving an empty spot beside the church cemetery, where many loved ones were laid to rest.

Left.
Dedication of Seventh Day
Adventist Church on June 22,
1947.





Right. At the dedication L. to R. Pastor Anderson, a missionary from Africa, Pastor Oswald, Pastor Voth and Philip Brod Sr.

THE J.M. CALLAWAY STORY A NEW START:

by Thelma Callaway Drewoth

In 1888 John Otis Robinson left his home in Pennsylvania and with his wife Rebecca and 3 small children filed on a homestead in the State of Washington.

Thirteen years later in 1901 John McAllister Callaway with his wife Sallie (nee Adams) and 5 sons came from Virgina to settle on a homestead in Washington, in the Benge area near Ritzville.

In 1910 James, fourth son of John Callaway, married Alice Robinson and they moved to a homestead in northern Montana a few miles north of the town of Lothair. While there, 3 daughters were born to them, Thelma, Shirley and Jean. That area had been great grazing land but was not too suitable for grain growing and those were dry years. In 12 years they had only 2 good crops and from 1917 to 1921 they didn't even grow enough grain for cattle feed but had to have grain shipped in.

In 1921 C.P.R. agents were travelling through the

country looking for settlers for the lands the C.P.R. had been granted by the Canadian government for building the railroad. My dad and other men from various places were taken to the area west of Leduc around where the town of Thorsby is now. After the prairie dog, dry fields and sagebrush, it looked like a land flowing with milk and honey. I remember Dad coming home and talking about the size of the vegetables he had seen and the lushness of the crops.

So, after weighing the pros and cons over the winter, the decision was made to move to Canada. In the spring wagons were loaded; Dad hired another man to help drive and with Mother on horseback to drive the cattle, they left for the border crossing at Coutts. There everything was loaded on railway cars and Dad went along. Mother came back to collect us girls. She drove the old Model T all the way to Leduc, where Dad had already arrived. It was late May, 1922. The next day we set out for what was to be our new home, the N½ 21-48-1 W5. No buildings for shelter, just bush, swamp and mosquitoes!

The mainly travelled road then was the Town Line as it was called. Where Hiway 39 is now, was called the Blind Line and for miles there was nothing but logs laid across with a bit of dirt on top. To travel over it in a wagon one would feel as if one's back teeth were being jarred loose. However we kids thought it was great fun to sit on the wagon floor and go "ah-ah-ah". The men drove the wagons and Mother, with the assistance (?) of Shirley and me, drove the livestock. To us kids it was great adventure. After a two-day journey, we reached our destination, some old deserted buildings about a mile north of Dad's land. There were no doors or windows, and cattle and horses had been using it as a shelter, but we cleaned it out and moved in, a roof of sorts over our heads — for which we were thankful a few days later when it snowed. What kind of country had we come to? Snow in June!!

Ed Brosman who had chosen the south half of Sec. 21 built himself a shack in our farmyard and he and Dad worked together for several years. Then he gave up his C.P.R. land and moved to Weed Creek to work at his trade as a blacksmith.



J.M. Callaway family 1930. Back row: Shirley, J.M. (Dad), Alice (Mother), Donald Vath a neighbor, Thelma Callaway. Front row: James Jr. and Jean Callaway.

There was lots of lumber available. The Radowits family had a sawmill on their place; the Mudry brothers had one a few miles away and a couple of years later in the 'big bush' to the south, between us and Pigeon Lake, a sawmill was put in operation by the Morrow family. Dad bought a bit of lumber from Steve Cieslinski and put up a one-room building of rough boards, a layer or two of tar paper and then battened with slabs over the cracks between the boards. Later a lean-to kitchen was added on the north side and a log bedroom at the back. This was our home for 10 years until 1932 when a new house and barn were built on a knoll a bit south of the old buildings. As soon as we had the house built the next thing was to get land cleared and planted to grow feed for the cattle. There was lots of wild hay which could be cut and stacked. As game was plentiful, we ate a lot of partridge and prairie chicken. There were berries all over: raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries. blueberries. We could go down into the bush around Morrow's mill and in an afternoon pick

hundred-pound flour sack full of high bush cranberries which made beautiful jelly.

The younger generation of today would never believe how wet this country used to be. There were swamps everywhere. If a cow didn't show up with the herd she was quite sure to be mired in a swamp. If not in too deep, she could be pulled out from on horseback, with a rope around the saddle horn, but sometimes a team was needed. All the swamps had bleached bones in them from animals that had gotten mired and died. A mile south of us was the 'big swamp' which was impassable in the summer — was years before it had a decent road through it. The road north of us had a spot where during a wet spell we couldn't get through on horseback and had to cut across neighboring farms to get to school. Many of the roads were not on the road allowances but wound around low places following the higher ground. As more and more fences were put up this led to some rather heated disputes at times over rights-of-way.

We girls went to Dniester school and the first year I went, there were not enough of double desks for everyone so some of the bigger boys sat at the back on benches with tables for studying. The room was heated in winter by a box heater. All our lunches would be frozen solid by the time we got to school and at first recess everyone sat their lard or Roger's syrup pail close to the heater so the lunch could be eaten at noon. We were over 3 miles from school so we rode horseback as much as possible and in really cold weather we either missed or were driven. It was only a one-room school but later my father was instrumental in getting another room built so up to grade 10 could be taught. For higher than 10, one had to go to the city, find board and room somewhere and attend a city school. We got the basic three R's, none of the fancy courses that students today take for granted. Shop, Home Ec., etc., were unheard of — those things we learned at home.



Road south of the Town Line near Mike Mudry farm. J.M. Callaway family stuck in the mud on their way home from church.

My folks always milked quite a few cows and for the first few years Dad had to haul winter feed from the Leduc area. And winters then were COLD. He would leave late in the afternoon by team and sleigh, stop overnight at some house along the way, load the next morning and get home some time that evening half-frozen. Anyone in those days would take in



Water over the road about 2 miles farther south same year.

travellers over night. My uncle and aunt, P.B. and Maud Callaway, lived by the Town Line and their home became a regular stopping place for people from further west on their way to Leduc.

My aunt raised turkeys which she would pluck and sell just before Christmas. One year the turkeys were loaded on my uncle's old truck and he started for Leduc. It was snowing and the storm got so bad he had to turn back. Everything was reloaded on the sleigh and my mother, aunt, and I started the long drive to Leduc. It was thirty some below zero and snowing so hard that my aunt and I had to take turns walking ahead of the team to make sure we didn't get too close to the ditch and upset. We got to Leduc at dawn. I had on long underwear and stockings and 4-buckle overshoes but the underwear worked up and both legs were frozen above the overshoes. This caused water blisters to form and it was not one of my more joyful experiences.

Before the railroad came through and Thorsby was built, we got our groceries and mail at Anderson's store at Buford. Grocery buying trips were made by team and other times it was generally up to me to go for the mail on horseback. In fact, until I married, almost every place I went by myself I went on horseback. How times change! When our daughter was a teenager at the cottage in the summer she would clean stables for half a day to get to ride a horse for an hour

A family named Allred came from Idaho in the fall of '21 and the land they chose had a creek running through with quite a high bank. They made a dugout in this bank with a board ceiling and front wall. Primitive but quite comfortable, and I considered their dirt floor an excellent idea as it did not need washing. It was covered with sawdust which only needed raking once or twice a day. Mr. Allred was an Elder of the Mormon Churchand held Sunday School and preaching service in their home which we attended. He had expected to spearhead a Mormon community here but when the others decided not to come he gave up the land and moved his family back to Idaho in 1923.

In the early '20s the main purpose was to get more land cleared and into cultivation. Having only daughters, Dad had to hire help with the clearing and money to pay them was not acquired easily. It was hard, back-breaking work and progressed slowly. The dream was of 'someday' when we would have at least a hundred acres in cultivation, when we would have tractors; someday we would have good, gravelled roads and new houses and barns, electricity and running water, telephones, we would even be able to have a radio. Today almost everyone has all these and more, but are they any happier? I cannot remember myself or any of the young people I knew complaining of being bored or having nothing to do. We always found some way to have a good time.

There were dances and socials in the school house and later the community hall, we put together home talent programs; school and church Christmas programs, into which went a lot of time and effort, were enjoyed by young and old. We had picnics in the summer. Where there was a hill sleigh rides in the winter, on a sled if we owned one, if not a scoop shovel or cardboard box did as well. We had parties from house to house with young and older playing games together and having a great time. We had no feeling that we should be entertained, we created our own entertainment.

My brother James came to us in 1930. During the war he served overseas with the Canadian Army. Shortly after he returned he married Jessie Teha of Edmonton and there they lived until 1964 when they moved to Ottawa where James died of a heart attack in 1971, leaving 2 sons and 5 daughters. Shirley married Newton Stellmaker in 1939 and they now live at Seba Beach. My Canadian sister Lois Branton lives in the Thorsby district. I married Mike Drewoth in 1936 and, with the exception of a year in Calgary when we were first married, have lived in Edmonton until 1977 when we moved to our cottage at Seba Beach.

Our mother passed away on November 9, 1947 and Dad continued to live on the farm till 1966 and presently lives in Leduc. My sister Jean Kerr now lives with her family in our old home south of Thorsby.



Jim and Alice Callaway in the 1940's.

My feeling is that a huge "thank you" is due to the people who fostered the idea and did the work of compiling books such as this. We, our children and grandchildren, need to remember how very much we all owe to the older people who worked and struggled and endured that their descendants might enjoy an easier life. It was hard enough when my parents came, but consider the ones who were here before them; who came when there were no buildings and no roads, no schools. And many of them couldn't even speak the language. That took courage of a special kind. May we never forget what so many owe to those doughty few.

P.B. CALLAWAY HISTORY

by Edith Callaway Clouston

My father, Powhatan Bouldin (P.B.) Callaway married my mother, Maud B.Robinson at Sprague, Washington, November 19, 1907. They returned to his homestead near Lantz, Washington to set up

housekeeping.

The Robinson family had pioneered in Eastern Washington in the late 1880's. There wasn't a school near, so Mr. J. Otis Robinson had to hire a private tutor for his children. Some years later a railroad was put through near them - the Spokane, Portland and Seattle (S.P.&S.) line. Then Mr. Robinson got permission and opened a post office, named Lantz for his oldest son. After his death in 1928, the post office was closed and Benge became the nearest post office. The original farm is still intact, although the ownership has largely passed to his grandchildren.

The Callaways arrived from Virginia in 1900 when Dad was sixteen years old. He spent several years drilling water wells before taking the homestead.

James M. Callaway (P.B.'s brother) married Alice B. Robinson (Maud's sister) and homesteaded in Montana. After much hardship they emigrated to the Province of Alberta in 1922, and bought ½ section of C.P.R. land. Their letters to P.B. and Maud telling of the beauty of their new country invited investigation. So, after harvest, Maud, P.B., their baby Gwen, his brother George, and her uncle from Pennsylvania drove up in a Ford car.

After years of carrying water in buckets to sustain life in trees and plants, Maud was completely captivated by the greenness of the environment endless grass, trees and shrubs. To her thinking, she had reached heaven. P.B., however, was less impressed, having a home with indoor plumbing, a farm, and a family, he would prefer to stay in Washington.

Maud was not one to give up her dream, so, during the winter P.B. converted a farm wagon into a prairie schooner by fastening iron rods across the top to support the canvas cover. A bed was built across the back with a single bunk above it. A cream separator was mounted in the front corner and there was a stove for cooking and heat. The wagon box was built over the wheels and every spare inch used for storage. There was a chair with a seat woven of leather thongs that had travelled to the California gold rush.

As soon as school was out at the end of May 1923, we set forth. Mom drove a team of horses hitched to the wagon and Gwen, three years old, and two canary birds in a cage rode with her. Helen, fourteen years old, and Edith, thirteen, each had a saddle horse to drive the twenty-five head of cattle. For protection, Mom had a pearl-handled revolver that her mother had taken to Washington from Pennsylvania.

There weren't too many super highways in those days and we kept to the rural areas as much as possible. However, we did drive through the city of Spokane,



Mrs. P.B. Callaway standing in front of covered wagon she drove to Alberta border in 1923.

starting at 4 A.M. on a Sunday moring under police escort. Lantz Robinson, Mom's brother, lived in Spokane and he and a young telegraph messenger boy helped Helen and me move the cattle through the city.

At night we were always fortunate enough to find kindly people who would let us hold the cattle overnight in their corrals or fields. We milked the cows, separated the cream and shipped it back to a Spokane creamery. They returned the cans to Dad who had stayed on the farm to harvest his crop and prepare to ship what was left to Leduc in the autumn. The cows ate along the way and we hobbled the horses at night so they could feed. Some mornings we woke to find the horses missing and one day it was noon before we located them.

In those days there was a long narrow bridge over Lake Pend Orielle at Sandpoint, Idaho. At first, cars approaching our cattle excited them and we feared they'd jump over into the lake. So Mom drove the wagon onto the middle of the bridge and we followed with the cattle. Any motorist on the other end had to back off and let us pass.

The further we got into Idaho, the larger and thicker the mosquitoes seemed to get. The cattle would rush into any near creek or lake and be very difficult to herd out. The horses lay down in their harness. Finally we reached the mountains and the going got slower and slower. One day we covered only nine miles. So by the time we reached the International Boundary Line at Eastport, Idaho, and Kingsgate, British Columbia, Mom had a pair of tired, disgruntled cowpokes.

The horses had to be tested for disease and one kept reacting to the test. Hence we were held up longer than we had expected. During that time the animals had good pasture and we gave the milk to the townspeople who were extremely kind to us. The veterinarian advised ordering a railway boxcar and loading all the animals, wagon and effects into it, which we did. The railway wouldn't allow females to ride on the freight train, so a local young man was hired to make the trip. Helen returned by train to Dad on the farm. Mom, Gwen, the canaries and I entrained for Leduc.

Upon arrival there, the village blacksmith took us under his care, introduced us to his family and to Mrs. Maurice Canfield who was about to drive back to her home near the James Callaway farm. She kindly let Gwen, the birds and me ride with her in her democrat. Once there, her son, Edward Hanson, and daughter Johanna Marie Hanson, furnished us with a saddle horse and accompanied us to the Callaway home.

The next day Uncle Jim took me back to Leduc so we could help Mom get the equipment under way again and drive out to his place.



Maud (Mrs. P.B.) Callaway with daughters Helen (left) & Edith & one of her grandchildren.

It was very pleasant there during the summer. Three times a week cousin Thelma and I rode horseback to Buford to get the mail. Mr. Edward Brosman, a Montana blacksmith, lived in a cabin nearby as he had bought an adjoining quarter section of land. Later he moved to Sunnybrook. Across the road lived Mr. and Mrs. Edward Charlton with their sons Orville and Ernest. Later they moved to the quarter west and their daughter and husband, the Joe Embrees, moved into that house - all very fine neighbours.

When Dad and Helen arrived we rented a quarter section from Mr. Steve Ceislinski and moved into his

buildings for the winter. Like most early houses it had a pit under the floor with a trap door. One day Dad was down there and found a can of money. Sometime later, Mr. Ceislinski came calling. As soon as he was admitted into the house, he rushed for the pit. Dad told him not to worry, and gave the can to him. He was one very happy man!

Dad bought a half section of land from the C.P.R. $N\frac{1}{2}$ 33-48-1-W5. He built a slab shack on it and we moved into it in May 1925 and were on our own again. A proper house was later built and they moved into it to celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary in 1932.

The first year we attended Dniester School where Mrs. Beulah Hale, newly arrived from Montana, taught the one-room school. During her term of service there, their daughter was born and I remember one day Mr. A. Zeiner Sr. filled in for her in the classroom. The Hales, with her mother, lived in the rooms above the school.

During the three years that I was out of school, my mother and I cut all the logs needed to build the large barn on the farm. Dad hauled them to Radowits' sawmill across the road from our house where they were sawed. The barn has suffered neglect in the years since and the roof has fallen in. Also, Helen and I worked on the farm, clearing, pulling roots, stooking, and putting up hay. Dad had a power saw for the firewood but we split it. Always there were cows to milk and people said no matter what hour of the night they went by, there was always a light in the window and usually someone banging the milk pails.

But life wasn't all work. We had wonderfully kind neighbours and happy times, too. Mom and Uncle Jim organized a literary society and we had programmes of plays, recitations, debates, songs, etc. at the schoolhouse.



G.W. Clouston Family of Vancouver, B.C. Left: Garnet holding Johnny, Edith holding Russell. Gary and Elaine are standing in front.

These usually ended in a dance which sometimes led to trouble. Finally it was decided that a community centre was needed. Dad donated an acre of his farm for the site and we set about raising money for the project. Jack Errington, who lived with his mother, was treasurer and one winter day he walked all the way to Leduc to deposit the money in a bank, because, he said, money was so scarce that he wouldn't trust himself to keep it at home. Years later he and his brother-in-law moved west. I am told that his present land holds four oil wells. It couldn't have happened to a nicer person. His sister was Mrs. John Roos.

Dad had traded a quarter section of land in Washington for a one ton Ford truck. In the winter he hauled livestock to Edmonton. He may have done it in the summer, too, but I don't remember that. People who lived at Berrymoor would haul theirs over with horses and he would take over with the truck. One family I remember in particular was Mr. and Mrs. Plank. For a time Dad and Mr. Herb Vath bought cattle which he hauled to Edmonton for resale. The trip often took three days due to bad roads. In the summer, the young people of the community piled into the back of the truck and we drove forth to picnics or outings at the lake.

Our souls weren't neglected either. At first, any available preacher was invited into one of the homes. Then all of the interested neighbours attended service. Later, when we could depend on regular services, it was decided to build a church and Dad donated an acre of land for that also. Although there were many devout families in our midst, they represented different faiths. So it was decided to build a union church to serve all. At the beginning there were Delendorfs, Stellmachers, Vaths, Helfensteins, Dedios, Drewoths, Zingles, and Callaways.

Helen and I helped Mr. Stellmacher shingle the church roof. Unfortunately both the church and hall were destroyed by fire some years ago.



Miss Edith Callaway dressed as a 1930 cowboy standing behind slab house which was first home on the P.B. Callaway farm. Small boy in background is Roger Callaway.

The first wedding in our church was performed by the Rev. Benham, uniting Christian Bilou and Johanna Marie Hanson, August 20, 1933. Only two of the seven Callaway girls were married in our church.

Money was almost nonexistent but we were young and the world was ours.

A new school was built at Dniester and I went back to school. The teachers were Miss Margaret MacDonald (Toots) and Miss Margaret McDonald (Boots), who later married Laurence Ruzicka, manager of Beaver Lumber in Thorsby. My last year was taken at Strathcona High in south Edmonton and I then attended The Edmonton Normal School and taught for five years before moving to British Columbia in 1939.

Dad farmed until his eightieth year when he sold his equipment at an auction sale, divided his land among his three daughters and moved into Plane View Manor in Leduc. He and Mom celebrated their sixty-third wedding anniversary at the Town House in Leduc, November 19, 1970. Mom spent most of her life on the farm with her cattle and died July 20, 1971. At her request, she is buried at Ritzville, Washington, with her parents. Dad passed away November 20, 1974 in the Leduc Hospital and is at rest in the Thorsby Cemetery.

Helen, the widow of Bernard Green, has lived on the home place all these years.

Gwen, the youngest, married David Ross. They live in Thorsby. She is the local reporter for The Leduc Representative.



P.B. & Jim Callaway, Herb Vath, and Maud Callaway.

I should also state that in 1930 Roger came to live with us. He joined the Air Force during World War II and now lives near Creston, British Columbia.

The old camp wagon stood in the yard at the farm for years. The canvas deteriorated so Dad built a wooden roof over the canvas. When Mr. Earl Danard opened his Great Northwest Pioneer Village museum twenty-three miles west of Edmonton on Highway 16, Mom gave him the wagon and an historic chair. Later the City of Edmonton took over his museum and when Mom died we daughters gave her household effects to the Fort Edmonton Museum. Some day we hope to see her cherished possessions on view there.

ROGER BOULDIN CALLAWAY

Roger remembers coming to the P.B. Callaway home in 1930. It was summertime and Mr. C.B. Hill brought him out from Leduc. He was to grow up as a son of the Callaways.

Roger Callaway grew up in the Dniester district and went to the Dniester School. When he reached high school grades he attended Thorsby School and quit when 17 years of age to join the Royal Canadian Airforce. After training in Canada he was sent overseas as a rear airgunner.



Roger Callaway departing for R.C.A.F. station after leave at

He flew on 35 missions over enemy territory, not including those on D Day and was overseas for 15 months. He attained the rank of Pilot Officer. An interview with him in the Dec. 1, 1944 issue of the Western Messenger includes the following.

"On D Day," said Roger, "after taking off from our base in England we headed for the French coast. At exactly 12.02 a.m. we dropped our first load of bombs with enemy fighters all around us. The sea, land and sky were all lit up from the explosion of bombs, naval shells and enemy guns. Only a few minutes before, it was as quiet and as dark as a tomb except for the droning of motors, and now it was as tho' all hell had broken and the end of the world was here. It was a sight I will never forget, and although ground troops were not visible from 15,000 ft. up, I learned later that the beaches were soaked with blood. I never made a more truthful statement in my life than when the gunner beside me asked if I was scared, and I had to admit I was."

"During one of many raids over Paris we were attacked by ME 109s. The "kite" I was in was picked by an enemy searchlight and only through evasive action of our aircraft and the altitude we were flying at, managed to get out of it. The next instant a German flier was picked out by the searchlight and with the aid of the gunner next to me, Flt.-Sgt. "Babs" Barber of Sheffield, Eng. we riddled the ME 109 and watched it go down in flames."

"Another raid I will never forget," Roger continued, "is one over Cambrai. While over enemy territory, we were frequently attacked by the enemy's planes and the expected happened. A fighter came streaking at us and opened up with his cannons. He riddled our ship full of holes and my mid-upper gunner and I were victims of the shrapnel from his

shells. My buddy got it through the hips, while I got it through the knee and top part of my head. We were shot up pretty bad and it was only by a miracle that we reached the English coast, where we had to make a crash landing after losing altitude all the way back home."



Icicles on home. P.B. Callaway home on April 2, 1940.

Roger came home from overseas and after his discharge from the R.C.A.F. he worked in Kimberley, B.C. In May 1946 he married Dorothy Thompson of Creston and shortly thereafter rejoined the R.C.A.F. He was stationed in Rivers, Man. for awhile, was sent to Japan and finished the last years of his service at Cold Lake, Alberta.

After his retirement from the airforce he and Dorothy with their family of 6 children moved back to Wynndel, B.C. and bought an acreage there. Roger took courses in small instrument maintenance while in the airforce and has since worked in employment where his training could be used. He operated a watch and clock repair business from his home as well.

Their family are: Wayne, who is married and manages his own garage in Creston, B.C. He and his wife Miriam have 2 little boys. Miriam is a school teacher.

Allan served in the navy for several years and is now employed in Victoria, B.C. Richard (Rick) has travelled to South America twice (once by motorcycle) and is still single. Kenneth, the next son is married and he and his wife both work in Creston. Joanne, their only daughter is employed in Calgary. Kerry is the youngest boy and he works in Creston.



Roger Callaway Family. L. to R. Standing: Wayne, Allan, Rick, Kenneth, Kerry and Joanne. Sitting in front: Dorothy & Roger (parents).

THE ALEC DYRKACZ FAMILY

As told by daughter Katie

Alec Dyrkacz came from Austria with his wife and their 4 children, Mary, Steve, Bill and Pete.

Homestead records show they settled on a homestead in the Dneister district NW 30-48-1 W5 which he filed on Nov. 16, 1906. After they were living there, two more children were born and Mrs. Dyrkacz died in childbirth. The two younger boys were named Harry and John. These two and Pete were taken in by other families after the death of their mother.

In 1910, Alec married Mary Lickacz, who had a son named Mike. To this marriage 4 more children were born; Annie, Nick, Katie and Fred. These younger children attended the Dniester school.

As the years went by, the family grew up and Mary left the district and married. She had 2 children; William, living in B.C., and Stephena, who later died. Mary made her home in Vancouver, B.C. Steve married Annie Sikora of Calmar and had 6 children. Their names were Alec, Eugene, Morris, Lorne and Allan. A daughter, Patsy, died. They lived in Edmonton and Steve died there about 2 years ago.

Bill Dyrkacz never married and worked for other people all his life until his health failed. He died in 1973.

Harry, too, was a bachelor. He had a great sense of humour and many friends. He worked in logging camps many winters and was killed accidently while still a young man. When cutting trees down near Breton, one fell on him.

John never married and died many years ago. Pete

John never married and died many years ago. Pete also remained single and lives in Vancouver B.C.

Annie, the oldest child from the second marriage, married Joe Lutczysyn and they lived in Round Hill, Spruce Grove and then came back to the Sunnybrook district to settle on their own farm. They had 3 daughters, Angela, Maxine and Lucy. Angela married John Wurban and now lives in Warburg.

Maxine married Arnie Dixon and they have 3 sons, Brian. Bruce and David and live in Edmonton.

Lucy lives in Edmonton and her parents are living there now since they rent the farm and have retired.

Nick remained a bachelor and lives on the old home place. Katie married Harry Brozny and they live near Thorsby on a farm. She has 9 children and many grandchildren.

Fred, the youngest son, went out to work after he finished school at Dneister. He was working near Calgary and drowned in a boating accident on the Bow River in Calgary when he was a young man.

Mr. Dyrkacz died in 1963 at an estimated age of 93. His wife, Mary, died a year earlier, in 1962, and was about 87.

The name Dyrkacz was changed in spelling to Derkoch when the children went to school.

Mike Lickacz, the son of Mary Likacz Dyrkacz, married a girl from Hay Lakes named Mary Galenza. They later sold his farm and moved to Hay Lakes to live.







Top left: Mr. & Mrs. Alec Dyrkacz

Above: Harry Derkoch, another son, sharpening posts.

Below: L. to R. Patsy Watkins, Annie Dyrkacz Lutczysun, her husband Joe Lutczysun and Mike Wurban, father of Mrs. Watkins.

Left: Fred Dyrkacz (Derkoch) their son.

Top Center: Nick Dyrkacz (Derkoch) Mike Lekoch, living now in Hay Lakes, and Bill Derkoch.



THE ERRINGTONS

Jack Errington, his mother, and sister Elizabeth immigrated to Canada from England in 1915, leaving England for a new country after Mr. Errington Sr. was killed in an accident in South Africa. They came to the Medicine Hat area of Alberta in 1915 and remained there until October, 1924 when Jack and Mrs. Errington moved to Thorsby. Elizabeth had married John Roos several years previous to the move.

They left Medicine Hat and came north because of extreme dry conditions and found the exact opposite upon their arrival at Thorsby. It rained every day for the first 2 weeks they were there. This ruined many of the family treasures, such as photo albums and the

family Bible.

When Jack and Mrs. Errington arrived at their land at Thorsby, they had 4 horses and 15 head of cattle. They had shipped their cattle and household possessions by train to Leduc, their property occupying boxcars along with Elizabeth's and her husband's and family's. They had 2 cars of stock and one of household possessions.

Their first requirement was shelter for themselves and their belongings. There were several hay meadows to provide feed for the stock. The land was not fenced, of course, and during the winter months

Tack's horses wandered off and disappeared.

In the spring of 1925, Jack started to clear his land, finally clearing approximately 90 acres, all by hand, before he sold out in 1939.

Jack and his mother were active in community affairs and Jack served as secretary of the Community Club for one year.

Jack and his mother moved from their farm near Thorsby in 1939 to Buck Creek where they had taken out homestead leases several years previously.

Mrs. Errington passed away at Buck Creek in

Jack Errington, born in 1899, still resides on his farm at Buck Creek.

THE HERMAN FRIEDENBERG FAMILY

related by Mrs. Violet Friendenberg

The long hard winter of 1935-36 was breaking into spring when Herman purchased a quarter section of land S.W. 30-48-1-W5 from Julius Hoffman. The land was formerly owned and settled by R. Krause.

Early on April 8, 1936 we started our trek west from the Michigan Centre district by sleigh, piled high with our belongings, travelling to our new home. West of Glen Park the sun was very warm, melting the snow and making travel very difficult for the team, so we lunched and rested at Anderson's store. Lack of snow made sleighing difficult so from the 5th Meridian we shovelled snow onto the road where it had melted, thus making the pulling easier.



First home of H. Friedenberg, purchased from R. Krause,

On we went, over Weed Creek on the Town Line and west up Dniester hill, arriving at our new home in the evening. We were tired but looked forward to farming our own land. Although it was late spring our first job was to get firewood, and I had never seen such tall trees since I was a child growing up on my Dad's farm near Leduc.

Early one morning our new neighbour, Mrs. Steve Pankewicz, came to call bringing with her a package of garlic for good luck. I couldn't speak Ukrainian and she spoke very little English, but we understood each other and became friends. There was a double meaning to the garlic; it was a symbol of productiveness, and held true in our case. A son Gordon, was born in May 1936, then 3 daughters, Lyla in October 1937, Dianna in February 1939, and Carol in July 1943. The three eldest arrived at Burgess' hospital at Thorsby with Dr. M. Hankin attending. Carol arrived in Edmonton. Schooling was received at Dniester and the two oldest went on to Thorsby Junior High School.



H. Friedenberg, on tractor, pulling A. Fink from mud hole on the way to Pigeon Lake, 1943.

We supported most of the dances that were held to raise funds for the men overseas during the war, travelling outside our own area, to Glen Park, Thorsby, Telfordville and Warburg. Sports days and school picnics were highlights of the summer in later years.

One spring we built a garage for our car and were painting when we paused for a break, but Gordon and Lyla didn't. Painting the garage was tiresome, so with brushes filled with red paint, they proceeded to paint each other. Hair and all were then in need of a bath in coal oil.

Bathing was difficult at the best of times, but on one occasion, under great stress, Lyla tried to master her brother's bike. She headed up the pasture trail with the dog at her heels. He being curious, but not brave, routed out a skunk from the bushes and then ran back to Lyla. The skunk, angered, spewed its natural defences at the girl and dog. What a mess! Lyla decked out in Saturday finery for our weekly trip to town, which she never made for obvious reasons.

We managed a living during the war years with Herman doing custom land breaking and in 1939 he bought an Allis-Chalmers tractor and did woodsawing in winter and threshed grain in the fall for years.

In 1951 we sold the farm to Bill Kuta and moved to Buck Lake where we bought property and a school bus from Paul Fink. The trek farther west over rain-sodden roads filled with trenches, brought back memories of our first pilgrimage. Many changes have



Mr. Mrs. Herman Friedenberg and family.

taken place, we have paved roads now and have sold the school bus, and Herman is enjoying retirement at our lakeside home.

Our children visit us from Edmonton and Thorsby. Gordon married Ann Imrie from Glasgow, Scotland, in 1959 and they have 2 daughters. Lyla wed a man from Paradise Valley, Frank Venner, in 1957 and they have one son and a daughter, all living in Edmonton. Dianna is at home and Carol married an Edmonton man, Duncan Mills, in 1966 and they have a daughter and a son. They bought the old Pentecostal Tabernacle on the Town Line southwest of Thorsby and live in it on an acreage.

We enjoy visits with our family and 6 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

EMMANUEL (EMIL) & EMMA GEBHARDT

By Emma

Emil's parents, John and Katherine, were born in South Russia, immigrating to Portland, Oregon in 1907. They stayed there until 1910 when they immigrated to Hilda, Alberta. My parents, the Bollingers, were born in South Russia as well, but immigrated to Canada in 1903, settling in the Schuler, Alberta area.

Emil was born, the 4th of 5 children, in the Hilda area where he grew up. He met me (Emma Bollinger) from Schuler. We were married on Jan. 3, 1935. We tried farming there after we were married, but it was a failure. While living at Hilda, 2 children, Stella and Howard, were born. Our third child, Violet, was born after moving to the Dniester area in 1941. We purchased the former J. Roos farm NW 5-49-1 W5. This was a mixed farming operation of cattle, pigs, chickens, ducks, geese, and mixed grain.



Wedding picture of Emma & Emmanuel Gebhardt.

When we took over the farm, there were only 40 acres broken, so this meant long hours and back-breaking work to clear more land with a grub hoe and axe. We farmed this land up to March, 1977, when we had an auction sale, and retired to Warburg where we have our own home.

Our children live within commuting distance: Stella Kadatz lives in Edmonton. She has 5 children. Howard and Jill (Mathews) live in Drayton Valley. They have 4 children. Joe and Violet Harakal live on a farm in the Warburg area. They have 3 boys.



The old reliables with Emil at the controls.

MY STORY

by Helen Green

Dad and I arrived in Leduc Hallowe'en night 1923, with a boxcar of household effects, machinery, 2 horses, a bull, 7 sheep, and the poultry — chicken, geese, and turkeys.

Mom, who had come in July, met us in Leduc with a wagon and team she had brought. The next morning we started unloading the car which was some job as Dad had got the biggest boxcar he could get.

It was just before dark when we finished unloading and got the wagon put together. We loaded the sheep, then piled on all we could; we had a democrat so loaded the poultry on it and tied it behind the wagon and tied the bull behind that. Mom had the wagon she had bought, piled to capacity.

There wasn't any snow and it wasn't very cold, but the ground was frozen like a rock. We left Leduc just before dark for Jim Callaways, 29 miles away. He had come the year before. I walked behind to make the bull lead.



Old log house on Steve Cieslinski farm that P.B. Callaway family rented to live in for first 2 years.

We arrived before daylight, then went hunting for a place we could rent with buildings. We rented Steve Ceislinski's property as it had good log barns and spring water. The house was a little, low log building which my sister named "Castle Crany Crow" and the fleas were something terrible. It had sawdust over the ceiling and at night when the lamp was lit the sheets were brown with fleas. Before we went to bed we'd sprinkle the bed with louse powder that helped a little.

Dad signed up for a half-section of C.P.R. land. In 1924 we cleared and broke some and fenced it and



Branding cattle. L. to R. Helen Green, Bernard Green and Roger Callaway, 1938.



P.B. Callaway loading a truck full of family members and friends for a trip to Pigeon Lake in the 1920's.

built a slab house and slab barn for his workhorses and poultry. In those days the clearing was all done with an axe. Dad was plowing and Mom and I did the clearing.

Then on the 2nd of May 1925 we moved into our new home. I have been here ever since.

When we lived on the Ceislinski place Lou Mudry had a sawmill on the quarter south where Steve Kuzio now lives. We were 3 miles north of Sam Morrow's mill which I think was the largest sawmill ever in this neighborhood.

The lumber was all hauled by horses. In the winter there would be strings of teams of half a mile, the most beautiful horses and harness and sleigh bells. Lots of nights there would be bells ringing all night as the teams were passing by. They would leave in the evening and get to Leduc in the morning. The drivers would put their horses in the livery barn, then unload their lumber, do their business, and then start back in the evening. That way they didn't have a hotel bill. They got \$5.00 or \$5.50 per thousand. The green lumber weighted 3 pounds per foot so they could haul only about 1,500 feet.

Dad stayed on the farm until he was 80, then he had an auction sale and went to Plainview Manor where he spent his remaining years.

Mom's health wasn't very good. She wasn't satisfied anywhere but on the farm. I could not take care of her so she spent her last years in Plainview Manor and hospitals.

I married Bernard Green. The Greens were old timers at Wizard Lake. We had 6 boys; one little fellow passed away in early infancy, Kenneth, the oldest married Brenda Harrison and lives on a farm near here. Keith and I make our home on the old home site. Dwight is a field superintendent for an oil company, and his work is mostly in the North. Kenzie has a home in Vancouver. Wallace is with the oil rigs in Nigeria and he has bought an acreage at Abbotsford, B.C. where his family is living and when he quits the oil rigs that will be his home.

I would never trade Alberta for anywhere I have been in the States, and I have been in several States. Alberta for me!

Of my 2 sisters, Edith lives in Victoria, B.C., and Gwen lives in Thorsby.

THE ERWIN E. GUNSCH FAMILY

by Doreen Gunsch

The history of the Gunsch family began in Germany. Emil August Gunsch was born in a small farming village, the third son of a family of 3 brothers and 2 sisters. The family life was spent on the farm until the 1914 war broke out in Germany at which time he and his brothers were inducted into the army. He served the duration of the war as an infantry soldier at various fronts as well as being a prisoner of war for the latter part of the war years. When the war ended he returned home to find that 1 brother and 1 sister were casualties of the war.

In 1921, he married Anna Kemp, the youngest daughter of a family of five. Their married life in Germany was spent working on an estate farm where their first son was born, but who died in infancy. They immigrated to Canada in 1924, along with his mother, Julianna and his brother Emanuel.

Upon arriving in Halifax by ship, they then travelled by railway to the village of Leduc, Alberta. Emil and Anna and his mother settled into a two-room house on the outskirts of Leduc which at present is now the center of Leduc. Emil at this time worked out on neighboring farms clearing land for 75¢ a day while Anna took in laundry as a supplement income.

In September 1925, their second son Erwin Emil was born.

In 1926, the family moved into a dwelling east of Thorsby for 9 months during which time a house was being constructed on the 160-acre C.P.R. farm they had acquired southwest of Thorsby for \$1,140. Starting out with 5 cleared acres, the next years were spent in acquiring livestock and clearing off the remaining land in the summer. In winter many days were spent travelling up to 25 miles west of Thorsby for cutting and loading of tamarack posts and rails to be driven by horse and sled to Leduc. This only income was used for all the necessities of life.

The early 1930's proved to be years of hardship during the Depression. During this time grain was practically worthless while pigs and cattle were sold for only \$5.00 each. During this time, Emil's mother Juliana passed away. During the latter part of the 30's and early 40's, buildings were added to the farmsite and a new house was constructed in 1944.

In 1946, their son Erwin married Annie Rasch, the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Rasch of the Morrowdale district. The young couple lived on the homestead and continued farming as a partnership. More buildings were added as well as additional land and equipment being purchased.

In April of 1949 Erwin and Annie's first son, Reuben Eric, was born. A second child, their only daughter Doreen Esther, was born in June of 1952. A year later in 1953, besides partnership farming, Erwin also started working for the next 11 years in the village of Thorsby setting up and servicing farm machinery for the firm of Thorsby Farm Equipment, owned and operated by Fred King.



Mr. & Mrs. Emil A. Gunsch in front of their first car in their farm yard.

Their second son Marvin Walter was born in November of 1956. Shortly after this the farm partnership was dissolved with Erwin taking over full ownership due to his father's ill health. During this period the farm progressed to the stage where 480 acres were acquired.

Their third son Douglas Allan was born in July of 1964. A few years later in January 1967 Emil August passed away leaving his wife, son, daughter-in-law, and 4 grandchildren.

During the late 60's Erwin and his son Reuben farmed the land. An additional 640 acres was purchased and a number of quarters were leased and added to the farming enterprise.

They purchased a Versatile 4-wheel drive and a Minneapolis G-1000 giving a total of 5 tractors, 2 combines, 2 swathers, and a grain dryer which was added in 1969. He dried grain for the Alberta Wheat Pool. A caterpillar was added to the line of equipment and was used to clear land on their recently acquired acres. Over 350 acres were cleared and put into production near Pigeon Lake.

A threshing machine was purchased in 1943 and custom threshing was done until the late 1950's.

In 1955 a new pull-type combine was bought which eased the harvesting work considerably. The fall of 1958 was very wet with snow halting the harvest operations. Over 300 acres lay under snow all winter and when it was combined in the spring, the wheat was very light and poor. About one-third of the crop was burned off to clear the field. In the early 1970's conditions were better and farming was more profitable.

In Erwin's spare time he worked as a carpenter and assisted many neighbors with new buildings or home renovations.

In June 1971 Reuben married Gladys Krueger, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Krueger. In 1973 Emil's widow Anna moved into the Parkland Nursing Home in Leduc.

Early 1974 saw a major change as Erwin and his family decided to retire from farming and move to Kelowna, B.C. This necessitated the sale of some land and a public auction to dispose of the remaining farm



Family of Erwin Gunsch, son of Mr. & Mrs. E.A. Gunsch.
L. to R. Marvin, Doreen, Douglas and Reuben. Seated:
Anne and Erwin (parents).



3rd generation of the Gunsch family. L. to R. Reuben, Candace, Gladys. Seated in front: Brent and Jason.

equipment. The farm land was leased to Arlin Farms of Thorsby.

Upon moving back from Kelowna, Erwin is presently employed in Leduc, Their oldest son Reuben resides on the home place with his wife and their 3 children Jason, Candace, and Brent.

Their daughter Doreen is presently employed in Edmonton, Alberta.

Their second son Marvin is employed in Grande Cache, Alberta, and their youngest son Douglas is still at home.

THE GEORGE HANAS FAMILY

by Sophie Hanas Sych

The George Hanas family in Canada originated when George came over to Canada from Poland in 1925. He landed in Quebec on May 7 and came by train to Wilkie, Saskatchewan where he began work on the railroad. He later came to the Dniester district where he had relatives. He was a first cousin to Mrs. John Radowits. Here he worked for farmers helping to clear land and doing field work to save money to buy his own land.



George Hanas Family. Back row: Walter, Alex, Sophia, Joe and Safronie. Front row: George Hanas, Morris, mother Annie Hanas.

In 1927 he was able to buy a farm for \$800.00 which was up for tax sale. It had only 6 acres cleared on it so he got busy to clear some more. There were no buildings on it so he bought a log house from Mike Radowits, took it apart log by log, hauled them to his new farm and put the house, together again. The old house had been built in the early 1900's and had been the home of several settlers who lived on the farm before Mike Radowits bought it. It was very substantial and the logs were in good shape. After the Hanas family built a new house it was used for a granary and is still in use in 1978.

George had left his wife Eva and 2 little sons in the old country and he struggled very hard to make a home for them in the new land. Unfortunately, Eva took sick and died in 1928 before he could send for them. The next year he brought the boys over, along with is 18-year-old nephew Alex Hanas. His sons, Walter and Alex were aged 9 and 6 and it was very hard to do all the work and raise them by himself. They had to walk to Dniester school and learn the English language.

George met Annie Lesko, who had come over from Poland in August of 1928. She had come to the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Kilik and immediately began work for \$8.00 a month at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Manchak. Her was hard, and as well as housework she had many outside chores to do.

Annie was 19 when she arrived in Canada. She and George were married Feb. 7, 1930 in Edmonton by Father Dydyk.

In the early years they walked to attend church east of Thorsby. Later the church was moved into Thorsby and George helped with its moving. When a new one was built many years later he worked on it. George was a carpenter and built all of the buildings on their farm

as well as helping other neighbors.

Life for the family was hard during the '30s and they remember one Easter when George took a box of eggs to Thorsby with instructions from Annie to bring home some sugar and sausage for their Easter dinner. When the eggs were sold there was only enough money to pay for the sugar and the Easter dinner was rather bleak.

From her wages before they were married Annie had saved \$85 and it took all of that to buy a cow at Leduc. A wedding gift for them of 5 chickens started them with poultry. They bought 2 pigs from their neighbor John Meleshko for \$12. In those days there were many hardships. A can of cream brought \$1.50 for the 5 gallon size and eggs were $4\emptyset$ a dozen.

The family was increased as 4 children were born to them: Sophie, Joe, Safroni and Morris. In 1937 they built a new house that gave them much more room and comfort.



Hanas children Joe, Sophia, Safronie and Morris as a baby.

Walter served in the Canadian Army during the war and when he returned from overseas, he married Marie Pankewicz of Sunnybrook and they moved to Fisher Home. They have a store there and raised 4 children: Bill, David, Dale and Cindy.

Alex married Jean Pasula of Thorsby. They have 2 children: Duane and Evelyn. They make their home in Edmonton.

George's nephew Alex, who had come from Poland with his boys, moved to Vancouver, B.C. a few years after arriving in Alberta and lives there.

The younger Hanas children attended Dniester school and later Safroni and Morris went to Thorsby school on a school bus.

Sophie married Henry Sych and moved to Bittern Lake. She and Henry have 3 children: Morris, Larry and Jerry. Joe remained a bachelor and farms the home place and works out part time. Safroni married Jean Cieslinski of Thorsby and has 3 children: Steven, Lori and Kathy. They live at Drayton Valley. Morris married Gladys Miller of Thorsby. They have 3 children: Rickey, Terry and Michael. They live at Drayton Valley also.



Mrs. Annie Hanas and daughter Sophia in 1935.

Annie went back to her old homeland in 1962 and George returned to visit his old home in Poland in 1971. They retired from the farm in 1968, moved into Thorsby and keep very busy. He drives out to the farm almost daily to assist Joe with the farm work. Annie raises a large garden on their lot in town and has a great variety of flowers every year. They take many trips together to different parts of the country and often go out to Vancouver to visit Alex Hanas and other old friends.

They are great grandparents, as Sophie's sons Morris and Larry are married with families of their own. Morris has a son David and a daughter Heather. Larry has a son Danny.

Morris Sych is an engineer and spent a year working at his profession in Chicago and in 1978 George and Annie accompanied his parents on a flight there to visit him and his family.

THE JULIUS HOFFMAN FAMILY

By Frieda Hoffman Quesnel

My parents, Julius and Elizabeth Hoffman, left their home in Poland in the early spring of 1928 to come to a new country with hope for a better life.

Their first stop was in Winnipeg with Dad's sister. After a six-week stay, they headed to Alberta, to Mom's brother Julius Fuss in Wetaskiwin. In Aug. of that year I was born.

In the spring of 1929 we moved to the Wizard Lake area where my dad was able to find work. My brother Fred was born in Sept. of that year. In Oct. we moved to our homestead in the Sunnybrook area. It is now Ken Whalen's farm. For several years Dad worked in Morrows' sawmill during the wintertime and on his farm in the summer. He hauled lumber to Leduc to trade for food and other meager supplies he could afford. Mom and Dad worked very hard clearing the land by hand as it had to be done in those days.

Fred and I started school at Dniester in 1935. Our first teachers were Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Fox. We certainly have many fond memories of those days.

In 1936 Dad purchased some land in Sunnybrook and opened one of the first chop mills in the district. The location of his mill was the site where Pete Free's

auto-body shop is in 1978. Dad kept the farm and we moved our house to Sunnybrook where we lived for several years. Then Dad built another house and we moved back to the farm.

About 1939 he sold the homestead and bought the Ollenberg farm. He closed the chop mill and built a store in Sunnybrook. Presently it is Pete Free's property. For 2 years the store was rented to Mr. and Mrs. John Benham of Kavanagh. In 1941 we children were big enough to help Dad in the store so he bought the stock from Mr. Benham and we operated the store for 3 years, selling it to Harry McKay in 1944. Dad sold the Ollenberg farm and bought the John Bauman farm just 1 mile north of Dniester school in 1944. We moved onto this farm with great hopes and ideas.



First farmhand loader with wife on rake in 1946.

I remember Dad and Mr. Bauman's threshing years. I think they worked together for 6 or 7 years. Members of their crew I recall best were: Paul Fink, Art Fink, Ben Sulz, Bill Seidel, Sam and Bill Ollenberg, Frank Pichler and Mr. R. Zotzman.

In the late 1950's Dad sold the farm to Stanley and Anna Tomazewski and we moved to the Warburg district. There he bought another farm, and continued farming until ill health forced him to retire in 1975. He gave up the occupation with many regrets, and they moved into Warburg.

They still enjoy fair health and celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary on Sept. 7, 1978.

Mom and Dad in their early lives were very active in their community, with church, school, with neighbors and people. I recall many homeless children and adults who came to live with us because they had no money. These included several Negro people. We were always happy to open our home to the less fortunate and certainly we were blessed many times.

The memories of those early days include the families of Pankewicz, Semb, Massner, Paskowski, Lickoch, Bierbach, Kostyk, Wust, Vath, Schaffer, Steir, Szaftko, Brozny and many others. All are fond memories we share.

The teacher I recall besides the Foxes was Mr. Walden Smith. They were the people who helped to mold our lives and prepare us for the future. Thanks to

teachers for pleasant memories. Also, one last memory of our early church pastor the Rev. Paul Hannemann. He was a great inspiration to all of us.

The school year of 1944-45, Fred and I went to high school in Leduc. From 1945 to '46 I worked for Mr. Isaac Simpkins in Thorsby and later for Mr. Norman Hoffman in his grocery store there. In late 1946 I went to Lumby, B.C. to work and in 1947 I married Gerald Quesnel and we lived in Lumby until 1954 when we bought a store in Warburg. We moved back to Warburg with our 2 little girls Barbara and Geraldine.

Fred married Carole Mitchell in 1953, she was the daughter of Mr. Cam Mitchell, who was an elevator agent in Thorsby. They live in Rimbey where they have operated a store for 26 years. Fred and Carole have 3 children: Garry, Duane and Laurie. Garry is in Edmonton and is employed there. Duane lives in Red Deer where he is employed with McGavins. Laurie is attending university in Edmonton.

In 1956 Gerald and I were blessed with our first son David and in 1958 we received our second son Timothy. Our children are all grown up now. Barbara married Larry Hubscher of the Strawberry district. They live in Edmonton and have 3 children: Corinne, Shelia and Murray.

Geraldine married Douglas Sulz of Sunnybrook. They live in Leduc with their 2 sons Stephen and Darryn. David, our son, is working in the Edmonton area and still lives at home. Timothy works in Warburg and also lives at home.

We are still in the store business after 25 years.



Fred & Carole Hoffman & children. Standing: Duane, Laurie & Gary.



Family of J. Hoffman Sept. 1977. L. to R. Jerry & Frieda Quesnel of Warburg, her parents, Fred and Carole Hoffman of Rimbey. Carole was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Cam Mitchell of Thorsby where he was an elevator agent.

THE HENRY AND EMMA HUNKER FAMILY

related by Emma Hunker

Henry was born Sept. 9, 1897 to Frederick and Emma (Bucholtz) Hunker. Emma was born July 20, 1902 and her parents were John and Justina (Henschel) Martin. Henry and Emma were mariied in Radom, Poland.



Henry Hunker Family.

Henry and Emma along with their 2 children, Adolph, age 5, and Ida, 6 months, left Radom, Poland on the steamship "Hellig Olav". The family arrived at Halifax on May 12, 1928 and from there travelled via rail to Edmonton, arriving on May 16. Henry then walked from Edmonton to his brother Philip's farm which was located 2 miles west of Thorsby. Philip had been living there for several years. The family stayed with him for approximately 5 weeks until they purchased a farm located $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Thorsby.

Their first home was a one-room log cabin, heated by wood. There followed many years of hard work and hardship. The whole farm had to be cleared by hand. In the early days, Mrs. Emma Hunker and Mrs. Hilda Meckle walked all the way to Telfordville, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, so they could sell a few eggs to buy supplies such as lard, salt, sugar and coffee. Two years after they bought the farm, they built a larger home out of logs from the farm. They then sided over them for additional warmth. This is the house where Erhart, (1930), Erna (1932), Arnold (1935), and Gladys (1939) were born. Times were still very hard. The children had to walk 4 miles to Sunnybrook School. After a few more years, Henry built a cutter which the children used in the winter months.

The family attended the Thorsby Pentecostal Church which was 5½ miles from their farm and 3½ miles from Thorsby. Henry Hunker helped to build this little country church in 1939.

In 1943 they purchased another farm located 2 miles east of Sunnybrook. In 1945 it was time for a new home, so they built it at the new location because

this farm was on the Town Line, used as a highway before # 39 was built and a bus travelled daily to Edmonton. They also were only 1 mile from Dniester School which Erna, Arnold, Gladys and Lawrence attended. There was now school bus service and they had things a bit easier, but there was still a lot of hard work to do. They got the power in 1954.

On Dec. 21, 1966 Henry Hunker passed away after a short illness. Mrs. Hunker and her youngest son Lawrence continued farming until the spring of 1970 when the farm was sold to Mr. C.H. Walford. Mrs. Emma Hunker had a house built in Thorsby and lives there at the present time.

Adolph Hunker married Sonia Herzog. They have 1 daughter Dianne. They live in Edmonton where Adolph is in the trucking business.

Ida Hunker married Henry Pohl of Ponoka and they have 3 sons: Gary, Darryl and Randy. Henry is in the welding business. The family live on their farm in the Enrwistle district.

Erhart Hunker married Joan Hanks of Edmonton and they have a daughter Dawn and a son Glen. They reside on their farm in the Glen Park district.

Erna Hunker married Henry Roth of Barrhead. They and their 4 daughters: Debbie, Donna, Cheryl, and Shelley live on their farm in the Barrhead district.

Arnold Hunker married Beverley Kowalski of Mulhurst and their 5 children are: Elaine, Bradley, Marlanne, Brent and Lonald. Arnold works for an oil company.

Gladys Hunker married Sam Dotzlaf of Barrhead. They live on their farm in the Barrhead district with 5 children: Cindy, Terry, Colleen, Travis and Sheldon.

Lawrence Hunker married Debbie Poulin of Edmonton and they have a son Dale. Lawrence is a welder and the family live in Edmonton.

Mrs. Emma Hunker, after all the pioneering hardships, has reached the age of 76. She is in good health and still looks after her home and garden.



Henry, Emma Hunker and children Adolph & Ida.

THE LEONARD KERR FAMILY

By Jean (Callaway) Kerr

Having grown up here, then gone off to College and a career in the city, to return twenty-five years later in 1964 with my husband Leonard and our six children, I have on many occasions drawn contrasts between my own early years here in this same home and those of our children.

Their complaints, occasionally, about the length of time they must spend on the school bus, which calls at the gate, evoked thoughts and often a lecture about the 3½ miles I was required to cover year round either on foot or horseback, two children to one horse. When you were youngest of the two, as I was, that meant the "rumble seat" (back of the saddle), a very rough ride indeed. Walking conditions had to be quite bad for me to choose the alternative. When our oldest complained about the style of her school clothing, I was reminded of the time when my oldest sister, in her early teens, once disliked her school clothes so intensely that she "stashed" her "Sunday best" under a bridge crossed on the way to school and made a quick change on her way to and from, until someone caught on and foiled her little scheme.



Taken about 1936. L. to R. Back row: Thelma, Helen, Jim, Jean & Gwen Callaway, with Vernon Stellmaker and Walter Dedio. At centre: Lois Callaway. Front row: Alice Callaway (Jim's wife), Martin Stellmaker, Maud Callaway, (P.B.'s wife), Mr. & Mrs. Delhendorf and P.B. Callaway.

On the subject of clothing, it is interesting to recall that while we felt it an insult to our sensitivities to be required to don any type of trousers made of blue denim, considered only fit for men's work clothes, our daughters felt deprived if not allowed to wear them to school, and most other places.

There was little money available to us during those years, and few opportunities to go beyond our own small community. However, I doubt that our youngsters in later years ever experienced any thrill to equal even the days of anticipation preceding the acquisition of a few dollars, or sometimes only quarters, and a trip to the city to spend it; or to those 'once in a life-time' trips to the circus in the 'big top'. Occasionally one wonders which group really was

most deprived. Special occasions were very special those days.

I remember vividly the wonderful times we had as teenagers, in spite of the many hardships, mostly centred around the activities of the little non-denominational church which was attended by most of the Protestants in the surrounding area until enough of each denomination arrived to warrant building their own home churches. We had an active young people's group, assisted by a bevy of ministers of the different faiths who came to serve us in the little church. I like to think that many of us reached a richer understanding of our fellow Christians by having had that experience.

At time of writing we have two of our youngsters still at home with us, Catherine Ann, 17 years, and Gregory Leonard, 14. Our oldest daughter, Paula Lynn, aged 25 years, is married to Larry Meade who grew up in Ontario and came to Edmonton in 1976; they have one son, Travis Allan aged 5 years. Daughter Lorie Christine, 24 years of age, is married to Marcel Ott, who was born and spent his early years in Switzerland and lived in Ontario for some years before coming to Edmonton. They reside in Edmonton with their two sons, Kevin, 4 years, and Tyrone, 2 years. Maureen Elen, 23 years of age, is married to Norman Allan Smith, a native of British Columbia, most recently of Kelowna. They are presently living in Edmonton. Son Kevin Wilson Kerr, 21 years, is also living in Edmonton.



Len and Jean Kerr family in 1968. L. to R. Paula, Lorrie, Kevin, Jean (mother), Maureen, Len (father). Front row: Greg and Catherine Kerr.

My husband Leonard, after our return to the old home, worked for several years at the local cheese factory until he was forced into early retirement by injuries suffered in a fall.

Leonard passed away in an Edmonton hospital on Feb. 20, 1979.

PETE AND MARY KLYMKO FAMILY

by daughter, Elizabeth Ostapchuk

In 1928 Pete Klymko came from Poland to Edmonton. He lived in the Edmonton vicinity for about 4 years, during which time he worked at different jobs, including construction and harvesting for \$1.25 a day. Even so, he was able to save enough out of this wage to send for his wife Mary and daughter Kay who were still in Poland. In 1931 his family arrived, but before Pete and Mary could afford to buy any stock for themselves, they both worked on farms for wages as little as \$45.00 a month between the both of them. In a year they were able to save enough to buy a cow for \$21.00 and a sow for \$5.00. They then moved in the direction of Thorsby, renting farmsteads along the way while Pete worked for farmers. A second daughter. Jeanette was born at the time the family lived on a farmstead outside of Calmar.

Finally in 1940 they could afford to buy a quarter of their own. The SE 6-49-1 W5, known as the Sulz place, was the one they bought. Across the road from here was Dniester School which, as the family grew older, was very handy for the girls.

On this farm the Klymkos raised different types of livestock, including turkeys by the hundreds which they plucked by hand and sold. Hay for the cattle was put up by pitchfork.

There were several threshing machines in the surrounding district. The crew on each machine

worked to help out and in turn would have their crop taken off. Pete worked on several different crews throughout the years. Some of these were: John Pankewits', Erwin Gunsch's, and Steve Ostapchuk's. Many times the threshers would sleep by the straw piles until morning. At 6 a.m. the horses were fed and the men headed into the farmhouse for breakfast.

A third daughter, Elizabeth was born in 1942. Two years later the Klymkos' oldest daughter Kay married John Pankewits. They now reside in Sunnybrook. Two of their 4 children are married with 4 children each of their own.

In 1955 their second daughter Jeanette was married to Glen Smith. They have lived in the city of Edmonton most of their married years and have raised

In 1962 the family celebrated another wedding when their daughter Elizabeth married George Ostapchuk. They resided in Edmonton for 5 years. Their first daughter, Gloria, was born in 1963. After a second child, a boy, Terry was born in 1968, they moved to the farm which they purchased from the Klymkos. Another girl, Sandra was born in 1970, and to date they still reside and work on this farm making many improvements and beautifying the yard.

The Klymkos, Pete and Mary, now reside in Edmonton. Being retired and enjoying good health makes it possible for them to travel to the hot springs several times a year.





Pete and Mary Klymko and Family. L. to R. Kay (Pankewicz), Jeannette (Smith), Pete Klymko, Mary Klymko, Elizabeth Ostapchuk.



Mr. Klymko with calf.



George Ostapchuk Family. L. to R. Terry, Gloria, Elizabeth, George, Sandra in front, 1974.

THE JOHN KOBELUCK STORY

by Sylvia Bisson

John was born and raised in the Sunnybrook, area. He was the 7th child of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kobeluck. John had an exciting childhood and started his schooling at Dniester. Dniester was located 2 miles from his father's farm and John and his other brothers and sisters would all walk to and from school.

After a few attempts at trying to be a professor, John decided that farming was actually in his best interests. He followed his father's footsteps and started a farm of his own one quarter mile south of his father's home base.

During his courting years he met a young lady he was extremely interested in, and it was hard for him, as in those days 60 miles was quite a distance to go courting. But with John's suave and debonair manner, he won himself a lady from Sundance, Alberta. In 1951, John married Helen Kerylchuk. Their honeymoon was spent at Rocky Mountain House.

During their early years of marriage John worked as a farmer and a construction worker. They had their

first girl, Sylvia Anne in Aug. of 1953.

Sylvia's schooling was spent in Thorsby Jr. and Senior High, but unlike her father, she had a bus transport her 6 miles to and from school. Mr. Ed Knopp was her bus driver for her full schooling at Thorsby. Upon graduation in 1972 and a scholarship, she continued her education at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton where she studied Secretarial Technology. She studied the two-year program and was granted a scholarship at N.A.I.T. as well.

Her skills were first put to the test at Edmonton's newest television station, I.T.V. Here she progressed through to a Script Assistant and had her credits added to many television productions as well as their "In Concert" series. Continuing with her skills, she decided to switch jobs and is presently with the Bank of British Columbia as the Assistant General Manager's Secretary where she recently participated in a campaign which involved a territory of British Columbia and Alberta wherein she won \$500.

Sylvia married Larry Bisson, currently a Supervisor of Production and Control in the Data Processing end at Canadian Utilities, in Mar. of 1976. The two of them have recently settled in their own home in St. Albert, Alberta. They have plans for travelling before they settle down to have a family.

Going back to 1956, John and Helen had their second daughter, Gloria Linda. She followed her sister's footsteps and went to the same school and graduated in 1974, to continue her education at the University of Alberta. At university, Gloria studied Early Childhood Education and graduated in Apr. of 1978. It was also in Sept. that she found employment at the Caernarvon School in Castle Downs, Edmonton, teaching kindergarten students. She plans to continue teaching and has plans for extensive travelling.



Wedding of Sylvia Kobeluck & Larry Bisson Mar. 6, 1976.



Miss Gloria Kobeluck teaching school in early education class.



25th Anniversary of John & Helen Kobeluck. L. to R. Daughter, Glora, John & Helen, Larry & Sylvia (Kobeluck) Bisson, 1976.

In 1961, John and Helen had their only son, James John. James is presently continuing his education at Thorsby Senior High and at present has no definite plans for a career, although he shows a strong interest in electrical work with maybe some plans of continuing on his father's farm as a secondary interest.

John and Helen have a total of 3 farms; one, the home base, located 2 miles east of Sunnybrook which is a mixed farm, and 2 farms in the Breton area which they developed from homesteads into both grain and grazing lands.

Being married for a total of almost 28 years finds John and Helen now wanting to take it easy and do some travelling.

LARRY AND DARLENE KOBELUCK

by Themselves

Larry Roger Kobeluck, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Kobeluck, was born May 20, 1946 in Edmonton. He attended Dniester School until Grade 5 and then was bussed to Thorsby schools.

He graduated in 1965 and then attended the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton taking a course in Gas Technology. In 1967 he began working for Texaco Exploration at Mulhurst.

In June 1970 Larry and Darlene Bauman, daughter of Betty Bauman and the late Elmer Bauman of Westerose, were married. That December they were transferred to Cynthia where he worked at the Cynthia Texaco Gas Plant. They lived there for 6½ years.

May 1977 brought another move when Larry was transferred to the Willisden Green Texaco Gas Plant located 23 miles northeast of Rocky Mountain House where he became the Assistant Plant Foreman.

Larry and Darlene have 2 children, Blaine age 7 and Leanne age 4.



Larry Kobeluck Family. L. to R. Larry, Darlene and children, Blaine in background and daughter, Leanne.

MR. AND MRS. METRO KOBELUCK

by Mary Kobeluck

Metro was born west of Buford, Alberta on Nov. 5, 1906. Mary, his wife, was born in the same district Aug. 14, 1914. They both went to Dniester School. Metro was 9 years old when he started school. There was no school built before that. Mary was 7 when she started school. Metro quit school at the age of 15 and helped his father on the farm for 3 years.

At the age of 19 he went to work in the summer for Andrew Halwa of Calmar. He hauled bundles with a team of horses to the threshing machine until the snow fell. He came home and with his father Semeon Kobeluck and 2 brothers, Bill and John, went to the bush to cut rails for posts which they sold to raise money for food and clothing for the family and for things they needed on the farm. He helped his father on the farm with seeding, haying and harvesting.



First little home of Metro & Mary Kobeluck.

Metro then went to work for Mr. Kizar in Wetaskiwin along with his friend George Radowits. They were threshing with steam engines and had 12 teams going. Metro enjoyed working there as the pay was good and that was what he needed. They had their own bunk house to sleep in and a cook who cooked for the threshing crew.

Later Metro and his friend Steve Radowits went to work at Bieseiker, east of Calgary, where they stooked for 20 days. Then they started threshing with the steam engine. His employer Mr. Kowel gave Metro a team of horses to work that was not broken in. When the team was hooked to the wagon and rack, the horses put their heads under the yoke and took off across the fields for 2 miles. Luckily there were no fences at that time to hook into, as Metro could not hold the horses. Steve Radowits followed a distance behind to see if Metro could control them. After galloping for 2 miles they started to slow down and Metro could control them as they were getting all played out. When he got back from the field he told Charley Kowel what had happened and he just laughed and said, "I knew it would happen like that. I wanted you to break the horses in." So Metro took a field pitcher to help him load while he hung onto the lines and started to train them. It took Metro 3 days to quiet down the horses and work with them. After that they were the best team to work with. There was an older man who hauled coal to the steamer. It was muddy by the steam engine so he got stuck and his horses could not pull the wagon out. So Charley Kowel told the other man to unhook his horses and told Metro to hook his team to the wagon and his horses pulled the wagon load of coal out at once and everybody cheered, clapped hands, and the boss himself went to the steam engine and blew a loud whistle.

When threshing was over Metro went home and put a down payment on a quarter of C.P.R. land and started working on his own farm. He built a two-room frame house and had a dance in it. Everyone was welcome to come to the dance. So Mary's friend Pearl Errickson came and they both went to the dance as it was only two miles to walk and they all had a good time. It was there that Metro and Mary met. They went together for a year and got married in St. Josephat's Church in Edmonton. The Rev. George G.

Zydan performed the cermony on Jan. 20, 1931.

Metro was busy on the farm cutting spruce logs for a barn with Tom Kucharski who had been hired to help him. He built the barn and a small granary with the help of their friends and 2 brothers. Mary, who was 8 months pregnant with their fourth child, helped to shingle the barn. They also built a new house.



Building the barn on Metro Kobeluck's farm.

Metro then decided to go to work with his 2 brothers John and George Kobeluck at Niton. He worked there for 2 weeks and got very sick and came home. He stayed in the house for a month and was in bed for 2 weeks. He did not know he had the mumps and got chilled very badly. So he never again went to work in the sawmills.

When Metro went to work in the winter, Mary had to haul straw from the neighbors' for the cows and horses. She had to use an axe to chop the frozen straw. It was about 3 years old and rotten from the top of the stack. She loaded the wagon only half full because she did not have any dinner with her and was all played out. Her daughter Florence was 15 years old and her son was 13 years old when they helped her to pull away all the frozen straw and most of it was pulled by hand. Mary also had to take oats to town to grind for chop for hogs and cows. She milked cows by hand and sold cream for a living. Mary used a rope and pulley to draw water from the well to water the cows and horses. In the winter when the snowstorms were bad, she and son George carried the water to the barn for the cows because they would not go to the well to drink.

She always had a big garden for the family, lots of vegetables and a very good crop of potatoes. Mary and her 4 children used to dig a double wagon box of potatoes. They started at 9 o'clock in the morning and finished at 8 o'clock in the evening. They did not go to the house for lunch. Mary made a bonfire out on the field from dried potato tops and baked potatoes in it. They had fresh homemade butter, milk and water to drink, and they ate the baked potatoes out in the field. The fire also kept the smaller children warm. The potatoes were taken to the basement and later some were sold to camps and sawmills. It helped to pay some of the expenses on the farm such as gas farm fuel.



Mrs. Mary Kobeluck and her 2 daughters, Florence & Lorena and grandaughter.

Metro and Mary Kobeluck raised a family of 4 children. A son George S. Kobeluck of St. Francis married Annie Borys of Falun. They have 3 daughters: Mrs. Marvin (Geraldine) Ruff of Legal, Alberta, and Barbara and Sharon at home. Mrs. Walter (Florence) Konduc of Edmonton has 4 children, son Dwayne Konduc, and 3 daughters: Mrs. David (Shirley) Velichka, Colleen, and Marlene Konduc all of Edmonton. Mrs. Roy (Lorena) Gardner of Edmonton has one daughter Brenda Lee at home. Miss Jane Kobeluck resides in Edmonton.

SAM AND ANNIE KOBELUCK

by Sam Kobeluck

Sam Kobeluck was born in Poland in 1875. Before coming to Canada in 1904, he was a Cossack soldier in the Austrian War. During the war years, times were very hard and tales were told of eating shoe leather, horses and other domestic animals.

When he returned from the war, Sam met Annie Makutra and they were later married in Annie's home town in 1899.

During their early years of marriage, Sam continued as a Cossack soldier, and his wife worked in the neighbouring village as a cleaning lady. While in Poland, Annie gave birth to their first son, John, who in early infancy passed away. A year later another son, Mike, was born to them. In 1904, Sam, Annie and young son Mike, left Poland for Canada. They ventured over by boat and arrived in Montreal. From there they boarded a train and went west as far as Leduc. The railway line ended at Leduc, so from there on Sam ventured further west on foot. He arrived in the Thorsby and Sunnybrook district finding it very wet and swampy. Sam looked and found a homestead on high land where he made his new home. Annie and young son Mike remained in Leduc until Sam had established a new home. The homestead is still owned and operated by one of his sons, Victor Kobeluck.

Annie and Mike then joined Sam and together they built their first house. The logs were cut down by

axe and moved by hand. After long hard days of sweat, Sam and Annie had their first three-roomed log house. To protect themselves from the coldweather, the cracks between the logs were filled with mud.

In the early years of their lives in this new country, Sam worked at Red Deer on the railroad in order to earn money to purchase a horse and plow to work his new land. Annie and son remained on the homestead alone for a year while her husband was out working. When Sam returned, after a year, he had purchased his horse and plow and together they worked to clear their land.





Annie Kobeluck.

George Kobeluck and Victor Kobeluck.

All early shopping was done at Leduc. Wheat was taken by horse and wagon, which sometimes took two weeks to deliver. The wheat was exchanged for flour and other merchandise.

As time progressed, more settlers moved into the area. Mike Radowits had the first threshing machine, and did most of the harvesting in the area.

After a few years of homesteading, a third child, Mary, was born to Sam and Annie. At the age of ten, their daughter passed away due to appendicitis. The other children born to Sam and Annie were Metro, Bill, Katie, Anne, Bessie, John, Mary, Victor and George.

With the help of their children, Sam and Annie bought more land in the area and cleared it. Their first threshing machine was purchased by their son Bill.

A new house was also built and times seemed to be getting better. Throughout his lifetime Sam and his family cleared a total of six quarters of land. Four of these quarters are still being farmed by his sons.

During Sam's lifetime he saw five of his children

Anne to Steve Ference, Bessie to Carl Thomas, Mary to Metro Mudry, Mike to Miss Katie Lickoch, Metro to Miss Mary Mudry.

In September of 1942, Sam passed away at the age of 67. Annie and her sons Victor, George and John continued to farm. Victor married Anne Jakowicki of

Calmar, George married Violet Workun of Calmar, and John married Helen Kerylchuk of Tomahawk.

Annie Kobeluck passed away in 1962 at the age of 86.

VICTOR AND ANN KOBELUCK

written by son, Sam

Victor, son of Sam and Annie Kobeluck, was born Oct. 20, 1920. He attended the Dniester School and

was taught by Mr. Fox.

After the death of his father, in 1942, Victor took over farming of the homestead. In 1945, Nov. 6, Victor married Ann Jackowicki from the Weed Creek area. Ann was born on Feb. 10, 1928. They were married in the Russian Orthodox Church in Edmonton.

Victor and Ann have two sons, Larry born May 19, 1946, and Sam, June 14, 1948.

In 1946, Victor built a new house on the farm. The Kobeluck family are members of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of Thorsby.

The sons are both married, giving Victor and Ann four grandchildren. Larry married Darlene Bauman, June, 1970. They have two children, Blaine and Leanne. Sam married Marlene Kirchner July, 1971 and they have two children, Pamela and Shelley.

MIKE E. AND KATIE KUZIO FAMILY

By Marlene and Shirley

Thomas and Annie Kuzio arrived from the Ukraine in 1902. In the spring of 1905 Thomas passed away, leaving his wife Annie with child. During the summer, she married Thomas' brother Fred. On Oct. 12, 1905 a son, Mike E. Kuzio, was born.

In early days, the youngsters attended school only when farm chores permitted. When the children were about 10 years old and capable of walking a short distance they were allowed to go to school, usually until they were about 12 years old, when they quit school to work on the farm. A few older children (17 or 18) went to school in the evening to learn English, reading, and writing, but worked on the farm during the day. Some of the teachers Mike recalls at Weed Creek School were; Mr. Burdan, Mr. Ben Bauny, and Mrs. Brown.

Mike left home at 14 years of age and found work on farms in the Leduc district. During the winter months he returned home to Thorsby, going to his job at Louie and Fred Mudry's saw mill, staying on through the summer to carpenter with them. Several years later he bought a tractor and plow and worked out breaking land. In 1927 he purchased a quarter of land SW 29-48-1-W5.

On Nov. 23, 1929 Mike E. Kuzio married Catherine (Katie) Ostapchuk and moved onto their



Mike Kuzio on his McCormick tractor in 1929.

farm. A daughter Rosie was born to them but passed away in infancy. Another daughter Helen was born in 1931. George, a son, was born in 1932. He died accidentally at his job at the age of 28 years.

In 1934 Mike and Katie had another girl, Eva. With 3 small children and farm chores to look after, Mrs. Kuzio appreciated help from her younger sisters Annie and Nellie Ostapchuk.

In 1935, a son Joe was born and a daughter Verna was born 2 years later.

In 1937 Mr. and Mrs. Kuzio and their 5 children left the farm and rented a house in Thorsby. While in town they rented a chop mill from Steve Radowits, operating in competition to the mill run by John Hier and Alf Sulz. In the fall of that year, the Kuzios returned to their farm to harvest.

In 1938 Shirley was born. Her brother Danny was born 2 years later.

Raising a family without any of today's conveniences was no easy task in those days. Older children were taught to handle responsibilities at a very young age. The chore of keeping a two-room house, (with 7 children in it) up to the mother's standards was not an easy accomplishment.

Larry was born in 1943. By this time the older members of the family could manage most of the requirements of farming and housekeeping. Between the ages of 10 and 12 Mrs. Kuzio taught the girls how to scrub floors and clothes, and the art of dough-making. Bread was baked 3 times a week with 100 pounds of flour lasting barely 3 weeks. The knack of milking cows was learned at a tender age and done before going to school. The boys handled the horses and outdoor chores while their father carried on his trade as carpenter throughout the years.

In 1946 Phyllis was born. Her older sisters and brothers of school age walked $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to attend Dniester School. In later years they caught the bus at Dniester and attended Thorsby School

Dniester and attended Thorsby School.

Rodney (Rod) Kuzio was born in 1947. His sister Virginia (Jeannie) was born in 1949 and 3 years later Marlene was born. By this time, the 4 oldest members of the family had left home to work. The younger children welcomed their visits and appreciated the gifts and treats brought them.

A son, Dale, the youngest child of Mike E. and Katie Kuzio, was born in 1954.

In Dec. 1959, the family was pleased to purchase a large, two-storey house from Mr. Adolph Strochein, and have it moved onto their farm. This was the original home of the Massner family, and had been built in 1930.

In 1962 the house was moved onto a full cement basement. When Rod Kuzio purchased the farm in 1965 he undertook renovating the house along with farming the quarter, plus an adjoining quarter NW 29-48-1-W5. Rod married Cathy Gette in 1972 and shortly after their marriage they removed the upper storey of the home, remodeled the inside, installed water works, and refinished the outside of the house. After building corrals and shelters they are established for mixed farming. Rod and Cathy have 2 daughters, Tanya and Trina.

On Sept. 1, 1968 Mike and Katie Kuzio and the 2 youngest of their family, Marlene and Dale, moved and rented a home in Edmonton. The other children were all married with the exceptions of Jeannie, who married a year later, and Rod, who married 4 years later.



Mike and Katie Kuzio, Nov. 29, 1954. 25th Wedding Anniversary.

The Kuzio children's married names and offspring read as follows:

Helen (John) Smigelski — have 4 children

Alice (Susie) (Joe) Verhun
2 children — Bradley
and Angela
Deb (Terry) Robertson
a son Troy

Karen and Bill George and Jean (nee Hakes) — have 4 children

George deceased 1960 Susie (Mike) St. Denis 2 daughters — Danielle and Cheryl-Lynn

Jerry

a daughter Debbie Judy (Gary) Hall and Brian Eva (Jim) Zingle — have 3 children Gary, Randy and Brenda

Joe and Shirley (nee Gullian) — have 6 children

Wayne (married Dawn Schwartz)
Wes (married Roberta French)
a son Jeffrey

Wendy, Waunitta, Warren and Wyn-Ellen

Verna (Joe) Radowits — have 2 sons

Rick and Darrell

Shirley (Alex) Radowits — have 2 daughters

Alex deceased 1977

Janet (Rod) Meyer, and Sharon

Danny and Elaine (nee Pankewits) — have 4 sons

Darren, Dean, Collin, and Blair

Larry and Sharon (nee Hier) — have 2 daughters

Tammy and Melanie

Phyllis (Alf) Larose — have 3 children

Roxanne, Trevor, and Marla

Rod and Cathy (nee Gette) — have 2 daughters

Tanya and Trina

Jeannie (Les) Huber — have 2 children

Jason and Cora-Lee

Marlene (Dave) Lyka — (no children)

Dale and Colleen (nee Campbell — have 2 sons

Shaun and Mark

Mr. and Mrs. Mike E. Kuzio find a big difference between their way of life now and that spent on the farm. Although of retirement age, Mr. Kuzio finds satisfaction in his job as saw-man at Revelstoke Lumber Yard. On weekends and days off they return to the Thorsby area to visit and help their family. Mrs. Kuzio finds city life much more relaxing and comfortable with all the modern conveniences she did without the previous years. Although burdened with arthritis, she manages her house and a large garden. After coping with all the hardships of a large family, surprising as it may seem their greatest enjoyment is their childrens many visits and the unity of the family.

STORY OF FREDORA & ANNIE LICKACZ

written by their daughter-in-law Mary Lickoch Koziak

Fredora Lickacz was born in Wysocok, Poland in 1879, and immigrated to Canada in 1907. In 1908, he married Annie Tomaszewski. She was born in 1882 in Yarislow, Poland and immigrated to Canada in 1906.

After their marriage, they moved to a farm near Sunnybrook, SW 36-48-2 W5. Many years passed and Mr. Lickacz bought a farm across the road from where they lived, and another one 3 miles north. Most of this land was cleared by hand with the help of his sons as they grew up.

To this union was born 8 sons and 5 daughters. Peter (my husband) was born in 1912. He farmed in the Thorsby district and passed away in 1966.

John, born in 1915, lives in Vancouver, B.C. Mike, born in 1916, lives in Edmonton. Joe, born in 1917, lives in Edmonton. He served in the last war from 1940 to 1946.

William, born in 1919, lives on the farm where his father first settled. Tom was born in 1924. He served in the last war from 1940 to 1943. He was wounded in action in Italy and suffered for many years from his injuries. As a result of them, he died in Kamloops,

B.C. in Nov. 1977. Metro, born in 1926, lives in Vancouver and Steve, born in 1927, lives in the Sunnybrook area.

Katie, born in 1910, lives in Thorsby. She married Mike Kobeluck and is now a widow. Nellie, born in 1911, married a man named Arndt. They live in Leduc. Emily born in 1921, lives in Edmonton. Stella, born in 1923, and whose married name is Kuhn, lives in the Leduc area. Sophie, born in 1931, and whose married name is Heintz, lives in Edmonton.

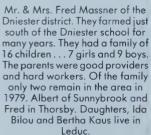
All of the children attended the Dniester School.

The family lived in a 2-room house with an upstairs. It was built of logs plastered with clay mixed with straw. This plaster was later whitewashed. After many years, they built an addition onto the house. It was made from lumber and sided with board siding. It included a kitchen, pantry and bedroom.

Mrs. Lickacz finally acquired a wooden washing machine. Up until that time, all clothes had to be washed on a washboard. This machine had a wooden tub, and when a handle was pulled back and forth, it would turn the agitator.

By 1936, they bought a tractor and a threshing machine, and with the help of his sons, Fredora did much of the threshing in the neighborhood. This machine was still in operation in 1968.

Before this, Mr. Lickacz's health had begun to fail and he passed away in Dec., 1942, at the age of 63. Mrs. Lickacz stayed on the farm with her son, William, until 1950 and then moved to Edmonton and lived with her daughter, Emily, for about 12 years. She then moved back to Thorsby and made her home with her oldest daughter, Katie. As her health began to fail, she moved into a nursing home at Wetaskiwin. She passed away on June 6, 1966, at the age of 84. She and her son, Peter, died the same day and within hours of each other.





THE JACOB MECKLE FAMILY

By Natalie Knull

In November 1924, the Jacob Meckle family sold their farm at Hilda, Alberta, because of severe drought conditions and moved to the Thorsby district, settling on the N.W. 7-49-1 W5. They came by train as far as Leduc, bringing with them 14 cows, 8 horses, some chickens and geese and whatever machinery they had, along with a new Model T Ford car and their household belongings. There was Jacob, his wife Maria, (both were born in Russia of German parentage and married there, coming to South Dakota in 1903 and to Hilda, Alberta in 1913) and their 11 children, namely: — John, born in Russia, Reinhold, Lea and Edwin, born in South Dakota, Hilda, Arthur, Frieda, Emanuel, Jonah, Samuel and Emil all born at Hilda, Alberta.

When they arrived in Leduc, they were met by Bill Moeller and one of the Sniders, who helped them move their belongings from Leduc to their C.P.R. land, which Jacob had already purchased earlier that year. They lived in an old vacant building across the road from their place during that winter. Their cows all died that winter because they were not used to the type of winter out here and also because of a shortage of feed. Some of the horses survived.

During the next summer, they built a four-room house with a porch, and Jacob along with the older boys began clearing and breaking some land. Edwin went to work for a farmer near Thorsby by the name of Collinson and earned 2 cows which provided the family with milk, cream, butter and cheese.

The Meckle children walked 21/2 miles to Dniester School and recall that Mrs. C.M. Hale was their first teacher. Life for the Meckle family was like any other pioneer family at that time. Times were hard, with 13 mouths to feed, Maria had to bake 10 loaves of bread every other day. She would grow a big garden, which provided the family with vegetables through the summer months. They would also pick wild berries, especially cranberries, which she would make jam from during the winter when they could afford to buy the sugar. She would also buy sheep's wool, spin it, and the girls would have to knit mitts and socks for the entire family. Early in the winter they would always butcher a cow or a pig (sometimes both) to have meat, and after Maria had rendered the lard she would use the fried-out drippings and some lye to make soap for washing clothes. All washing was done by hand on a scrub board.

Although times were hard, they had good times too. During the summer months the children enjoyed getting together with the neighbours' children to play ball. They recall how one time their parents bought candy and nuts and hid them in the cupboard, locking the cupboard, so that they could have a special treat at Christmas time. The children had taken out the cupboard drawers, reached in and had a feast with the candy and nuts. Their parents could never figure out how they managed to get into the cupboard.

As the children grew up, they went out working in different districts and eventually getting married and settling down to raise their own families. It was in May 1931 that Jacob became suddenly ill one night and passed away. Maria continued to farm with the younger children, until eventually Art took over the home place and farmed it up until the time when he sold it in 1973. He then moved into Wetaskiwin, where he still resides with his wife. Elsie.

Maria had remarried in 1948 to Andrew Bierbach and they had lived in Warburg until her passing away in August 1956 at the age of 75. In closing, I might mention that Reinhold had passed away in 1928 while working at Medicine Hat. John passed away in 1961. Lea (Mrs. Paul Fink) lives in Wetaskiwin. Edwin, Emanuel, Jonah, Sam and Emil all are married and live in Edmonton. Freida (Mrs. H. Ankerstein) lives in Leduc, and Hilda (Mrs. H.R. Knull) lives in the Thorsby district.

FAMILY OF ANDREW MELESKO

information by Walter Melesko

Andrew Melesko married Pearl Blonawricz and 6 children were born to them. Anne, their oldest daughter married a man named Johnson and they live in Calgary. They have 4 children: 2 sons and 2 daughters. Alice Melesko became Mrs. Broulette and lives in Summerland, B.C. They have 4 daughters; Valerie, Ava, Veronica and Yvonne. Steve Melesko and his wife Iola live in Prince George, B.C. They have 6 children; Debbie, Sharon, Sherry, Andy and twins Neil and Tracy.

Vivian's married name is Mrs. Pallett and they have no family. They live in Peachland, B.C. Billy Melesko and his wife Ella have 2 children, Trevor and Sarah. They live in Prince George, B.C. Isabel married a man named Cook and lives in Calgary. She has no family.

Andrew Melesko died in 1950 and his wife Pearl died in 1967.

JOHN MELESKO HISTORY

Related by Walter Melesko

John Melesko came from Poland with his family of five children in 1904. He had been married twice in Poland and two children Steve and Annie were from the first marriage. After their mother died he remarried and Harry, Andrew and Hazel were born. The second wife also passed away before they left for Canada.

When they arrived in Winnipeg Steve decided to remain there and get a job. He was about 18 years old at the time.

The Melesko family spent their first winter on a

farm four miles south of where the town of Warburg would later be built. In 1905 they moved onto his homestead which was the SE 28-48-1 W5. Here he built a two-room log house made of hand sawn logs with the help of his neighbor Gabriel Sych who lived about a mile south. The next year he added more rooms on the east end of the house.

In 1910 John married Katie Chimera. This marriage proved to be an unsatisfactory one to his children and the older ones left home to make their own way in the world. Harry was only 12 when he left the family circle to make his own living.

There were no roads at that time and only a few settlers lived in the heavy bushland. Many sloughs and creeks added to the difficulty of travelling any place. He kept the first bull calves his cow produced and made oxen out of them. One was red and the other a roan. These animals were very strong and served him for many years, as they lived to a great age. In those years it was necessary to go to Leduc for the necessities such as flour, sugar and coal oil. The trip took three or four days and was one of rugged endurance. John helped to build log homes for some of the other settlers who came afterwards. In 1910 the Sych's moved away to Leduc and the Dool family moved onto their homestead and it is still the home of one of the Dool sons.

Steve, the oldest Melesko son, died during the 'flu epidemic in 1918. Annie had married a man named Preptko and she died in 1930.

In 1924 John put a new roof of spruce shingles on his house and built a brick chimney. The shingles were sawn at Morrow's sawmill located a few miles west. He acquired his first team of horses that year also. Two years later in 1926 he turned the active farming of the home over to Harry, his son who had married Jean Mellick in 1921.

They were living on their own farm several miles northeast, the N.E. 2-50-1 W5 and to them were born three sons, Fred in 1923, Walter in 1926 and John in 1933. John and his wife Katy continued to live on the homestead until their death. He passed away in 1935 at the age of 71. Katy lived until 1953 and died at the age of 83. She was a tiny little woman and was a familiar figure to the neighbors as she walked to the stores in Thorsby carrying a kettle filled with eggs, after her husband died.

Andrew married Pearl Blonawricz and they raised six children, Anne, Alice, Vivian, Steve and Billy. Anne lives in Calgary and all the others make their homes in B.C. Andrew died in 1950 and his widow lived until 1967.

Hazel married Anton Chimera and they had seven children, John, Nettie, Mike, Anne, Katie, Elsie and Walter. In 1973 Hazel, her husband and three of their children all died within one year. John, Nettie and Mike were the ones who died so close together.

Harry's wife Jean passed away in 1955 at the age of 53 and he continued to farm with his sons until 1959 when he became ill and died in November of that year.

His oldest son Fred had married Tillie Heidt and two sons were born to them, Irvine in August 1959 and Eddie on July 15, 1962. The old homestead passed on to him and for a few years they lived on it. After their departure the buildings have stood empty and the house remains as a landmark of an early settler's struggle to carve a home for his family from the rugged wilderness. It is probably the oldest log house still standing in the area.







Irwin and Eddy Melesko, sons of Fred Melesko

Walter Melshko in 1978.

Walter Melesko married Patricia Borland in 1960 and one daughter was born to them. Her name is Carole and she lives in Edmonton. Walter is retired now and lives in Warburg.

The younger brother John passed away in 1972. Fred died in 1975 and his two young sons Irvine and Eddie inherited the farm which has been in the Melesko family for over 73 years. His widow Tillie later married a close neighbor Steve Chrunik and they farm the old property along with their own land.

MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL MUDRY

by daughter Mary Kobeluck

Mr. Michael Mudry came to Canada with his parents, Dan and Eva Mudry, 3 brothers: Lue, Fred and Tom, 2 sisters Fanny and Annie. They came on a big ship in April of 1902 from Austria. They settled on the farm bought from Mr. Rybie by Calmar.

Later Michael's father sold the farm to Mr. Podgorni and moved 2½ miles south and 3 miles west of where Thorsby is today. Michael Mudry had already improved his homestead and built a little log house and was living in it.

In 1909 he met Katherine Radowits and got married in the Greek Catholic Church built of logs. It was St. Nicholas Church and was on the John Schurek farm just over a mile east. Later it burnt down. Michael Mudry was a carpenter, so he and some of the members of the church built another one by Mucha's several miles northeast. Later they moved it to Thorsby. Michael Mudry built houses and many other buildings for farmers, and one store in Thorsby which burnt down was located where Hoffman's Hardware Store is now. He also built coffins for some of the local



Home of Mr. & Mrs. Mike Mudry that still stands (empty). It was a landmark for travellers in the 1920 and '30's.

people who passed away. He built them of nice wide spruce boards. The two Dniester Schools were built by him and his 3 brothers. He also hauled lumber for his brothers from their sawmill in the wintertime and hurt his knee. As there were no doctors around at that time, he paid his oldest daughter 25 cents to cut the knee open to drain it. It had to be bathed with warm salted water for 2 weeks and was sore for a month.

Michael's wife Katherine also helped to bring a load of sand and stones for the foundation of the new school. She had to drive a team of horses 4 miles for the sand with her 2 children, Metro and Mary, who helped her to load the sand and then went 1½ miles to get a load of stones the same day. The carpenter work kept Michael away from home a lot. His wife and the 3 older children, Julia, Metro, and Mary, helped with the chores and the farm stock which consisted of cows, calves, horses and pigs. Katherine milked the cows by hand. She also kept chickens and geese for meat for the family in the summer. She cooked for 7 children, baked her own bread and washed clothes on a washboard by hand. Sometimes when she was short of water in the summer, she and the children would take the clothes to the creek to wash them. After rinsing



William Mudry.



Effie and Metro Mudry taken on Feb. 24, 1935.

the laundry, the older children would hang it on the branches to dry so it would not be too heavy to carry back home.

Michael and Katherine Mudry raised 7 children. The 4 daughters are: Mrs. John (Julia) Slawski of Calgary, Mrs. Metro (Mary) Kobeluck of Thorsby, Mrs. Joe (Effie) Kohut of Calmar, and Mrs. Jim (Florence) Duggan of Edmonton. The 3 sons are: Metro of Sunnybrook, Harry of Vancouver, B.C., and William of Thorsby, who passed away at his home on Jan. 8, 1971 at the age of 55.

Mr. Michael Mudry became ill and was sick for 2 years. He died at his home on May 7, 1938 aged 55. His wife Katherine remained on the farm for 13 years. She raised cows, calves, hogs, and chickens. Later she bought a house and moved to Edmonton and lived there until she became ill and was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital where she passed away Oct. 26, 1963 at the age of 75.

Michael's brother Lue has passed away. He had made his home in Edmonton. Fred Mudry owns his own Lumber Yard in Thorsby and his only son Joe works with him. Tom Mudry is retired and lives in Calmar.

Fanny married Matt Samardzic and lives in Thorsby. Annie married a man named Dobroski and lived in Calgary. She died in 1975.



Tom and Mike Mudry



Mary, Harry and mother Mrs. Mike Mudry



Metro Kobeluck, Dmetro Mudry and his wife Mary.

THE HARRY AND MARIA OSTAPCHUK FAMILY

by Marlene Lyka and Shirley Radowits

Harry Ostapchuk arrived from Poland in 1909 and settled on his homestead (SE 32-1-48-W5) $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-west of Thorsby. In 1911 his wife Maria and $1\frac{1}{2}$ -year-old son, Tom, came from Poland and joined him.

Five more children were born of this marriage: John (1912), Catherine (Katie) (1913), Steve (1917), Anna (1920), and Nellie (1924).



About 1914. Sam Paskowski, Tom Ostapchuk, his dad Harry Ostapchuk, John and mother, Mary holding daughter, Katie, on Iap.

The Ostapchuk children all attended school at Dniester which was just 1½ miles away, but with roads as they were in those days, this seemed to be a very long trek for the small children.

As most of the youngsters did in the early days, the Ostapchuk girls helped their mother, while the older boys helped manage the farm.

Tom Ostapchuk, the oldest of the family married Katie Horutko and took up residence on a quarter of land (NW 28-48-1-W5) kitt-corner to the Ostapchuk homesite. They had a family of 9 children: Bill, Mike, Stanley, Doris, Joyce (deceased), Wally, Phyllis, Jerry and Jackie. Tom and his family left the farm and in later years moved to Edmonton. Gwen and Dave Ross purchased the land in 1946 and farmed it until 1973. Harry and Carol Hennig are the present owners. All of the Tom Ostapchuk family reside in Edmonton. Tom passed away in 1978.

John, the second son, married Katie Drewoth in 1939 and moved onto their first homestead. Several years later they bought a ½ of land from the Stanley Mortimers and moved on to it. This land (NW 23-48-2-W5) is now farmed by John and Katie's youngest son Marvin.

In the late 1950s Mr. and Mrs. John Ostapchuk, and their family of 4 boys (George, Bob, Reg, and Marvin) moved to the farm 4½ miles southwest of Thorsby, directly across from the Harry Ostapchuk original farmsite. Their sons now all live within close range of the family. George married Elizabeth Klymko on Sept. 1, 1962. Several years later they

purchased the Klymko farm. They have 3 children (Gloria, Terry, and Sandra); Bob married Beverly Dalke on Oct. 11, 1968 and they own the former Fred Radowits farm; Reg married Marilyn Ruff on Oct. 19, 1974 and they farm and reside on the same land as his dad; Marvin married Phyllis Rovinsky on Feb. 17, 1973. They have one son (Jason) and live in Thorsby where Marvin has been employed with N.A.D.P., for 10 consecutive years.

Catherine (Katie) Ostapchuk married Mike E. Kuzio on Nov. 23, 1929. Their farm was an adjoining 1/4 section of land. Mike and Katie had a family of 14 children (12 surviving).

Although Mike E. had only a few years of schooling, he found no difficulty with reading and writing, and has a special talent for mathematics. This was a real asset to his trade as carpenter. Many buildings in the Thorsby district were constructed by him throughout the years. As most people in those days did, Mike often worked away from home from dawn until dusk. Katie and the family managed as best they could on the farm. Aside from gardening and canning in huge amounts, Katie often raised about 600 turkeys or chickens to help in the expense of raising a big family. She had a knack for sewing and often remodelled or remade clothes by just looking at a catalogue picture. She also made her patterns this way. Many of the local people knew Katie as their barber and hairdresser. Throughout the years Mike and Katie were both active church members and even now, residing in Edmonton, they enjoy coming back to Thorsby to attend mass.

Steve Ostapchuk married Millie Sekora in 1941. They took up residence on his dad's (Harry Ostapchuk) original farm. Harry had moved to his land across the road previous to this.

Steve owned his own portable custom planer and travelled many miles to plane lumber. When far from home, his work permitted him to be with his family only on weekends. His wife Millie, with small children, managed the chores and looked after the farm. A phone was installed and in 1954 power was run in and shortly after this a T.V. was purchased (one of the first in the community). This was a real treat and called for many curious visitors. A pressure system piped water to the pig and cattle tanks. In 1960 a new home was erected, and running water was installed.

Steve and Millie were blessed with 3 children; Gordon, Norman, and Adeline. Gordon married Marion Fedorow in 1968. They have 2 sons, Taras and Michael, and reside in Edmonton. Norman married Trudy Knull in 1968. They have 3 children, Steven, Tammy, and Priscilla. Their fourth child, Craig, passed away at the age of 1½ years after a short illness. Adeline married Dick Golda in 1972. They have 2 daughters, Selene and Nyssa. Adeline and Dick have made their home in Edmonton.

When the Steve Ostapchuk children were to begin their schooling, Millie and Steve purchased the quarter of land directly east of Dniester School. This land was formerly owned by Paul Fink. Norman and Trudy now live in the home his father (Steve) built in 1960. The original Harry Ostapchuk homestead is now owned by his grandson Norman and family.



Steve and Millie Ostapchuk's 25th wedding anniversary with children Adeline, Gordon and Norman in July, 1966.

Steve and Millie gave much time and effort to building up the farm buildings, and beautifying the yard. The pleasure they received from their work was very gratifying. Unfortunately, Steve Ostapchuk passed away Oct. 30, 1967. Millie now resides in Thorsby and is employed as cook with the Thorsby Hotel Cafe.

Anna Ostapchuk married Steve Sekora in 1938. They reside on a farm 9 miles southwest of Calmar. Their son, Myron, married Elaine Manchak on Oct. 29, 1965. Myron, Elaine, and their 2 children: Patricia (born in 1967) and Allan (born in 1966), own an acreage 8½ miles south of Calmar.



Harry Ostapchuk with five of his children. L. to R. Annie Sekora, Katie Kuzio, himself, Steve Ostaphcuk, Nellie Sych, and John Ostapchuk, son Tom was absent. Background sons-in-law Mike Kuzio and Steve Sekora, 1955.



Nellie, Harry Sech Kim and Harvey Sech.

Nellie (the youngest of Harry and Maria Ostapchuk's children) married Harry Sech in 1947. They make their home in Winnipeg, Manitoba and have a family of 2 children; Harvey and Kimberley.

Maria passed away Nov. of 1939 at the age of 52 years and Harry in April of 1960 at the age of 84 years.

Although only 3 namesakes were born to Harry and Maria Ostapchuk, there are many grandsons who will carry on the name throughout the century.

"THE STEVE & JENNIE PANKEWICZ FAMILY HISTORY"

by daughters Frances Hook & Stella Pankewicz

Steve Pankewicz was born in Jaroslav, Ukraine, in 1886. Being an adventurous young man he emigrated to the United States, working in various coal mines in Pittsburgh, Penn. and at the same time looking for greener pastures. Canada looked like good adventureland so in 1908 he arrived in Leduc, Alberta, and slowly made his way into the Dniester-Sunnybrook area filing on a homestead — SE 25-48-2 W5 in 1910.

Steve immediately realized in order to make this quarter section of bushland a "Home" he could not do it alone and needed a "Beloved Best Friend" to help him with his mission. Several miles away in the Thorsby district lived this young lady, Jennie Radowits, who was also born in Jaroslav, Ukraine, in 1894, arrived in Canada in 1900 with her father (John Radowits) step-mother (Jennie) and sister Katie (Mudry).

With some quick match-making by friends, Steve and Jennie were married at the (first) St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Calmar, Alberta, by the late Rev. Hura O.S.B.M. in 1910.

No honeymoon — wedding presents from Aunt Melesko consisted of one pig, a calf, two chickens and a rooster, plus a cow and several small items from home.

Their house was built of logs, cracks filled with moss and mud, put together with the help of friendly neighbours. The barn, pig house, and chicken coop, to house the cows, pigs and chickens were also constructed of logs. Furniture was mostly hand made. Bed mattresses were stuffed with straw or hay. Clothes were washed by hand on a washboard. A hand-dug well was the source of water supply for the house and the animals and was pulled to the surface by a bucket (pail) on a rope hand over hand. What a happy day it was when the wooden pump was installed. Land was cleared by hand and first crops of wheat and oats were sown by hand, cut by scythe, tied by hand into bundles, and threshed by flail. During the winter months tamarac rails and posts were cut and hauled by oxen to the Calmar-Leduc area (a distance of 20-30 miles away) in exchange for livestock and grain. Daily food was mostly from the farm. There was a garden most of which was canned or dried for winter. Wild fruit — saskatoons, strawberries, raspberries, etc. were plentiful. Also various mushrooms were picked and dried. Chickens were raised by setting clucking hens so there was always an abundance of fresh and canned chicken, eggs, milk and butter. Also prairie chickens and partridges were a good source of food supply.

In order to increase the unity of Steve and Jennie, God sent them an "Angel" which he took away, another trial of faith and patience during their struggle to get a start in life. Steve and Jennie, a Christian couple, had faith in God and were shortly blessed again with another child "Peter" and in successive years with eight more—John, Mike, Fred, Wasyl Anne, Marie, Frances and Stella. All were delivered by a mid-wife at home as there was no hospital or doctor nearby.

Providing a living for such a large family kept Dad away from home working at menial jobs on the railroad out of Edmonton or on other farms while Mom was left alone with the children to do the chores, etc. on the homestead.

As times changed and years passed so did the lives of Mom and Dad. Garden patches became small fields. The axe, grub hoe, and fire eroded some of the natural environment. The brushcutter replaced the axe, the combine the threshing machine. The bulldozer took the arduous work out of clearing land. The name of the game was progress, better equipment and acquisition of four more quarter sections of land within a close range of the homestead. For farther means of travel they purchased a Model T Ford, then a Model A, but horse and buggy was still used for closer distances of travel.

In July, 1939, son Peter married Mary Onesky. This wedding was the first big family celebration lasting two days: first day a reception was held at the bride's home and the second day at the groom's home—everybody had a hilarious time. They had the same type of celebration in 1941 when son Mike married Katie Kuzio.

New ideas came to mind so in 1943 Mom and Dad

and son John purchased a service station in Sunnybrook, from the late Mr. & Mrs. Zeiner. This was operated by their two sons, John and Fred (the latter arrived from Vancouver with his wife, Heather, and was formerly in the Royal Canadian Air Force). After several years their business partnership dissolved. John, however, still remains on the original premises.

In May of 1946, Mom and Dad wanted to try something different and purchased Fisher Home General Store, from the late Mr. & Mrs. Woods. It was operated by their 18 year old daughter Marie, who quickly turned to matrimony and married Walter Hanas on September 4, 1946. This business establishment was operated on a partnership basis for several years and Mom and Dad commuted back and forth between the store and homestead, leaving son Wasyl in charge of the homestead. He later married Mary Pastor in 1953.

In 1959, a house, which was formerly built on one of the quarter sections and lived in for only a short period of time by son John and his wife (Kay) while he was employed in a Thorsby garage, was moved to Sunnybrook onto an adjoining lot next to the service station premises, and became their home.

On May 27, 1961, they celebrated their "Golden Anniversary" with a 10:30 A.M. Mass at St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Thorsby, and a reception followed at 12:30 P.M. in the Thorsby Community Hall. By this time eight of their clan were married and had children of their own so they were now proud grandparents.

Reaching this milestone in life was the greatest achievement. Both always observed Sunday as the Lord's Day — a day to go to church (nearest was eight miles away). No matter how much work there was to do, it was never done on Sunday. Neighbours were kind and helped each other. A lot of visiting was done, especially on Sunday, visitors always stayed for dinner, supper or late evening lunch.

Man's greatest gift form God is good health, which Dad and Mom both pretty well had until later years in life.



Mike Pankewicz making hay and Anne with ducklings.



Bundle wagon used with threshing at S. Pankewicz farm.



Threshing machine of Steve Pankewicz.



Steve and Jennie Pankewicz Family, May 27, 1946, 35th anniversary. R. to L. Mary, Waszl, Fred, Mike, John, Pete, Anne. L. to R. Stella, Dad Steve, Mother Jennie, Frances.

At the age of 83 Dad perhaps was faced with the hardest decision he had to make in his life — death or leg amputation. He chose the latter which made him a wheel chair patient. The last three years of his life were spent in and out of hospitals and he stayed with his daughter Anne and son-in-law Andrew Lickacz, Calmar, when not in a hospital. Leg amputation was a great shock to both Dad and Mom. About the same time Mom's health began to deteriorate even though she was somewhat younger than Dad. She spent some time with her daughter Frances and son-in-law William Hook while going in and out of the hospital.

On June 24, 1968, another shock — their eldest son Peter passed away suddenly at the age of fifty-five.

Dad passed away February 1, 1970, at the age of

eighty-six.

In 1969, Mom was transferred from the Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton, to Parkland Nursing Home, Leduc, where she remained until her death on September 6, 1976.

Dad and Mom were truly devoted to their children, even though throughtout the years and to the final end had difficult crosses to bear. However, life's most essential "FAITH IN GOD" remained.

John and Kay, who live in Sunnybrook, have four children. Reg, the oldest, is married to Linda Crump of Calgary. They live in Calgary along with their son and daughter. Sylvia, the second child, married Pierre Crevolin, and they reside in Edmonton with their two sons. Judy, the third of the four, is single and lives in Calgary. Danny is single and lives at home.

Mike and Kate now reside four miles south-east of Sunnybrook. Their oldest daughter Patricia married Randy Stoddard and they, and their two sons live on the quarter north of her Dad's place. Doris married Alan Porter and they have two children, a boy and a

girl. They reside in Sherwood Park.

Fred and Heather have four children, all residing in Drayton Valley. Barry, the oldest, married Lois White and they have three boys and a girl. Garry, the second, married Arlene Hyland and they have a son and a daughter. Larry and Paula, both single, make their home in Drayton Valley when not in college or university.

Wasyl, or Willie, married Mary Pastor of Warburg and they took over the old homestead. They have six children. Donna, the oldest, married Adam Tomaszewski, and they live in Edmonton with their one child. Cherly married Ron Jackson and they too, live in Edmonton. Eugene is single and works out. Shelley, Dean and Darryl all live at home.

Anne married Andrew Lickacz and they live in Calmar. They have three daughters, all, as yet, unmarried. Sharon, the oldest, lives in Edmonton.

Wendy and Karen live there also.

Marie and Walter Hanas reside in Fisher Home. They have three sons and one daughter. Billy, the oldest, is married and lives in Leduc. David married Jane Halwa and they live in Thorsby. Dale is also married and lives in Leduc. Cindy is single and still living at home at the time of writing.

Francis married William Hook and they have two daughters and two sons. None are married and the

family resides in Drayton Valley.

Stella, the youngest daughter (baby of the family), was and still remains an "unclaimed treasure" residing in Calgary.

PASKOWSKI, SAM.

by daughter, Annie Sekora

My father Samuel Olekcin Paskowski, was born in Brody, East Austria, June 13, 1895. He immigrated to Canada in 1913, leaving behind his father, Alekcin and his mother, Barbara, two sisters, Katherine and Anna and four brothers, Joseph, John, Wasil and Harry, in Yugoslavia. Upon his arrival in Canada he joined his sister Mary Ostapchuk in Leduc, Alberta. This is where he began working for the Canadian Pacific Railway. Between 1921 - 1925, Father was foreman of the crew on the railway from Gadsby to Edmonton.

In 1922, Father married Vera Charnobraywa, making their home in Gadsby, Alberta. In 1923 a son,

Fred, was born to them. A few weeks later, Fred's mother passed away. This left Fred in the care of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charnobraywa for the next 3 years, while Father continued to work for the C.P.R. Fred's grandfather is still living in Edmonton at the age of 94 years.

In 1925, Dad terminated his job with the C.P.R., took a homestead and began farming in the Sunnybrook district. Developing the homestead and breaking the land was difficult. All the work was done by horses and hand. In those days the land was very wet and roads were poor. With the help of a few men, Dad broke 20 acres of land to seed some wheat.

In 1926 Dad married again, to Katherine Schurek. Katherine Schurek, my mother, was born in Poland, June 5, 1906. In 1909 she came to Canada with her mother and father, John and Mary Schurek, where they homesteaded in the Thorsby District. My mother attended Dniester and Weed Creek schools.

In 1926 Fred came to live with his dad and his stepmother. They lived in a two room house that was built in 1910 by a previous owner, Alex Derkacz. In 1930 Mother became paralyzed in her left hand and foot following the birth of a child. Although this made life very difficult, she continued to do a lot of her own canning and housekeeping. Mother hired neighbour girls, Olga Massner and Katie Drewoth to help out with the children as they came along.

Mom and Dad had 12 children of whom 8 are living, namely: Fred, Stella, Annie, Mike, Frank, Olga, Mary and Joseph. When Joseph was born, I took care of him as Mother was in poor health. All of the children except Stella were born at home with the help of a midwife, Mrs. Alex Derkacz, and Dad. Mother went to an Edmonton hospital where Stella was born. As the children grew up, we all helped Mom and Dad on the farm. We didn't have electricity then, so we used coal and wood stoves for cooking and heating. We used coal oil lamps to give us light. An ice house kept our meats, fish, milk and cream cold. Growing up during those days was a good experience and a good time to learn what life is all about. I will always remember Sunday on the farm with Mom and Dad. It was a special day; we got to make ice-cream!

We all attended Dniester School. Mr. L. Fox and his wife, Anna B. Fox were our first teachers. Some of the other teachers who taught at Dniester school were: Miss H. Young, Mrs. Gladys Lane, Miss B. Nelson and Miss L. Meditsky. When I was 14, I had to quit school to help out with the farming and housekeeping. When I quit school Dad began building a new house. Frank, Olga, Mary and Joseph attended Dniester School as well as Thorsby school. This is when they began busing the children to Thorsby.

We all walked 3½ miles to school. Each morning before going to school we had to help out with the chores. Sometimes when we came late, we were penalized. We would have to stay after school, clean blackboards and carry in wood and water. We had a coal and wood furnace in our school and a water well

with a hand pump.

In 1956, Mom and Dad celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary with a family dinner at their home. In 1960 mother passed away in an Edmonton hospital after a lengthy illness. Dad and Joseph lived together on the farm until 1968 when Joseph married. Dad continued to live alone on the farm up until the time of his passing.

All the children are married now and have children of their own. Mom and Dad have 24 grandchildren

and 3 great grandchildren now.

In 1961, Fred married Sophie Kowal. They have 2 boys, Richard and Harvey, still living at home and attending Thorsby school. Fred farms and owns his own trucking business in Thorsby.



Sam and Katie Paskowski family, April 1947. Back row, Stella Hoshowski, Fred Paskowski, Mike Paskowski, Annie Sekora. Front row, Olga Ivanchuk, Frank Paskowski, Sam (father and Katie mother) Mary Babiak. A son, Joe, wasn't born as yet.

In 1959, Mike was married to Rose Lischko. He has a family of 4 girls, Sherry, Cindy, Susan and Carlene. His oldest daughter Sherry was married in 1977 to Mark Hirsch. They have 1 child, Danny. Mike has a back-hoe business in Saskatchewan.

In 1965 Frank married Leona Pankewits. They have 1 daughter, Christine. Frank and Leona farm in the Breton area. Leona also works in the Treasury Branch in Breton.

In 1956, Olga married Mervin Ivanchuk. They have 5 girls: Brenda, Susan, Jamie, Sandy and Angel. Mervin passed away on July 26th, 1968. Olga and the girls live in Edmonton.

Mary married Matt Babiak in 1958. They have 3 children: Geraldine, Dale and Audrey. Matt and Mary are farming in the Thorsby district.

In 1968, Joseph was married to Sharon Williams. They have 3 children, Mark, Katherine and Dean. Joseph lives in Calmar and works at the International Airport.

I got married in 1950 to Mike Sekora and moved to the Calmar area where we began farming. We have 4 boys and 1 grand-daughter, Robin, born to David and Joan. David is an Electricl Engineer working in Chicago, Illinos. Danial is a Communication Electrician and works for Alberta Government Telephones. Valentine works in various places in

Edmonton. Dale, our youngest son, is in Grade XI at Calmar High School.

In 1969, Dad and I were planning a trip to visit his homeland but he passed away in Feb. of that year and his dream of returning to his homeland was never fulfilled. In 1976 Dad's nephew, Wasil, his wife, Line and their children, Oliver and Armin, of West Germany visited with the Paskowski and Ostapchuk families.

Although I couldn't return to my father's homeland with him, I fulfilled our dreams, visiting his country in Apr. of 1978. It was a great honor and a very happy occasion for me to meet Dad's relatives in Germany and Yugoslavia. With my cousin Walter Paskowski, and the rest of the family, I attended Easter Sunday church service. We also attended grave side services of my Dad's parents, sisters and brothers. Dad has one sister-in-law, Johana Packowski 78, and many other cousins, nephews, and nieces still living in Yugoslavia.

To preserve and to keep the memories of my parents and of my relatives in Germany and Yugoslavia, I have put together a family album.

GEORGE PICHONSKY FAMILY

by Helen Pichonsky MacRae

George Pichonsky was born in 1902 in a small village, Nizna Ribnica, Czechoslovakia. He was one of a family of 8 brothers and 2 sisters. It was in July, 1925 that he left his homeland by ship for Canada. He was terribly seasick during the 9 days at sea. One day, he recalls a terrible storm preventing the ship from making any headway for about 9 hours. They finally docked at Halifax, and it took several days to reach Edmonton by train.

In Edmonton, the immigration officer was no help in locating a job for George. He had only \$25 left after paying \$165 for his ticket to Canada. After a good rest and a fine meal for 25¢, he decided to wander the streets of Edmonton, eager to hear someone speak in his language. He did meet Ukrainian and Polish men looking for work. One of the men decided that they should go to Leduc by train and from there look for farm work. They did just that and after walking for almost 2 days landed at the farm of George Medisky. This was George Pichonsky's first job in Canada, doing various jobs on the farm at \$40 a month plus room and board. In the fall he also helped a neighboring farmer, Dan Popik, with harvesting.

During the next 5 years, George was employed at various jobs, clearing land in the Thorsby area, felling trees in a bush camp north of Edmonton, laying rails between Edson and Cadomin and digging coal in the Luscar mine. Finally in 1929 with a down payment of \$500, he purchased a quarter section of land from Mrs. Embree, a school teacher. He then went to Edmonton where he bought his first team of horses,

harness, wagon, stove, bed and some dishes. George mentions that it took him only 1 day to drive from Edmonton to Thorsby.



The George Pichonsky family already for a trip to Thorsby before cars became a popular form of transportation.

Meanwhile, Mary Kulych left her mother, 3 brothers and 2 sisters in the village of Redechiv, Ukraine to come to Canada. She arrived in March, 1930 and came to live at the home of her aunt, Annie Kilik. George met, courted and married her the same year.

Hardships and good times befell George and Mary during their farming years. They recall most vividly their first year. The 35 acres of wheat they sowed came up beautifully. However, they were never to harvest the crop. A devastating hail storm cut across their land, destroying the crop completely, killing most of the few chickens they owned and breaking the windows in their small house. This was one of the many experiences they had; but like most new settlers, there was no looking back; living just went on.



The George Pichonsky family in 1934.

In the ensuing years, 4 sons and 1 daughter were born to the Pichonskys - Mike, Steve, Helen, Harry, and Walter. They all attended Dniester School located 3 miles from their home, a distance often walked when a good horse was not available to pull a buggy in the summer or a cutter in the winter. With only grades 1 to 8 being offered in Dniester, the children were bused to Thorsby where most of them completed their high school.

In 1941, a large house was built to replace the tiny one the family outgrew. A neighbor, Mike Kuzio, the carpenter hired to do the job was paid 35¢ an hour. Mary recalls that she raised many turkeys to help pay for some of the furnishings for the new house. A beautiful walnut dining room set for \$250 was one large item that she still treasures.

There were many happy days at the Pichonsky household. George loved music, particularly the accordian, which he learned to play by ear. He encouraged all the children to play, buying various instruments for them, including an accordian, violin, mandolin, and guitar. Harry, having inherited his dad's natural musical ability actually learned to play them all. Often a gang of young people, including Alex Radowits and Billy Kuzio with their accordians, Glen Fink with his guitar would join the Pichonskys for a Saturday evening of music and singing.

The Pichonskys were, and still are, devout Christians. They are regular churchgoers, but the social functions revolving around the church have changed. In earlier times, church activities pervaded their family life. The completion of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church on the outskirts of Thorsby yielded an immeasurable amount of pleasure to them and their attendance there will always be a source of joy.

In 1951, a tragedy struck the family when Mike passed away.

After 38 years in his new country, in July, 1963, George was reunited with his family in Czechoslovakia. In May 1974, Mary had the marvelous experience of a visit to her homeland in Russia where she was reunited with a brother and sister.

The Pichonskys now are enjoying their retirement, with good health and their family close by. All the children live in the Thorsby district and have blessed George and Mary with 15 grandchildren. In 1971, they left their farm home and retired in the village.

The Pichonskys laboured long and hard to achieve what they enjoy today, as did all our pioneers. They have however, never regretted their decision to make Thorsby their home.

JOHN RADOWITS FAMILY, 1900.

by son Fred Radowits

In the year 1900 John and Jennie Radowits with



Mike Radowits and another neighbor pulling the tractor of Steve Pankewicz out of Weed Creek on the Town Line in front of the Radowits farm. Mr. Pankewicz had just bought the tractor and was driving it home when the wheels slipped on muddy bank and it went into the

their 3 small children, Mike, age 1, Jennie and Katie, left Poland to make their new home in Canada. They arrived in Leduc in the summer of the year without knowing a word of English. They didn't know a soul and John had only \$140.00 to his name. After getting off the train he stood on the station platform admiring the few belongings they had brought with them.

A man walked up and spoke to him in the Ukrainian language. This man was Mr. Kowal who had come to Canada from Poland quite a few years earlier. After a short talk, he invited them to his home where they stayed for the next 3 years. During those 3 years John worked for wages at different jobs.

In 1903 he went scouting west of Leduc for a homestead, and made several trips west with a borrowed team and wagon. They drove 26 miles west of Leduc on the Town Line which was only a trail and the remaining 4 miles was a surveyor's trail. This 4 mile strip was bad, as they had to cross 3 swamps, and 2 creeks, both the big Weed Creek and the little Weed Creek. When they crossed it darkness was falling so they had to camp for the night. The next morning John and Mr. Kowal looked at the countryside at daybreak and admired it. John decided that he would never run short of fire wood and land there, so he made up his mind to homestead a quarter section of land west of the creek. Little Weed Creek flowed into the other Weed Creek a few miles to the north and it was then called Weed Creek.

That same year he built a one-room log cabin and moved his wife and children there in the fall. He then left to work around Leduc and Wetaskiwin, coming home only occasionally. Jennie was left to tend the children and clear enough land for the next year's garden.

The next 3 years were very hectic. Whenever John was out of work he came home to improve the last 4 miles of road and to help with the clearing of land. Within the next 4 years there were 3 more families to homestead on the adjoining section. They were the Sendziaks, Kohuts and Karpowiches. So the Weed

Creek residents got off to a flying start in the land of plenty. They made roads, cleared land, visited and shared their troubles as one large family. Money was hard to get so rabbits and bush grouse were the main sources of their diet. Deer and moose were plentiful, but as no one had a gun to shoot them they were a delicacy.

As more homesteaders came into the area, some had a gun so they were able to shoot a deer or moose. Then there was plenty of meat. The Radowitses were on the homestead 3 years when they were able to buy their first team of horses, a walking plow and wagon. The next year they bought another horse and brought it home from Leduc. In the meantime the 2 they already had, strayed away as there were no fences. It took John most of the summer to find them.

By 1909 the roads were fair and it took only one day to drive to Leduc and another to come back if the weather permitted. Sometimes a rain storm would come up while settlers were in Leduc and the bridges over creeks would wash away. The travellers would have to leave their team and wagon there and carry the groceries home on their backs. Groceries consisted mostly of flour, salt, tea and sugar.

By this time they had a few cows, so butter, milk, cottage cheese and vegetables all came from the homestead. During the winter it was easier travelling as the creeks were frozen over so shopping trips were

made once in 2 months to Leduc.

In 1907 John bought a 6 foot second-hand Deering binder. He cut half of the 10 acres and the sprocket had to be replaced on the pitman shaft. They tried to remove the sprocket over a two week period without any success. Finally the Deering leader salesman who was in the district, heard of the trouble John was having and stopped in to have a look. After hearing all about the problem, he took a wrench, put it on the sprocket and with one sharp jerk backwards, he unscrewed the sprocket. No one had been aware of it being a left hand thread.

Seven more children had been added to the family by 1916. Bill had been born in 1902 and Steve, George, Fred, Nick, Anna and Mary came along through the ensuing years. Mary died in early childhood. Mike and Bill had very little schooling as, by the time Dniester school was built, they were too old to attend school and had to stay home and work. The rest of the children got their education in Dniester school. Mrs. Beulah Hale was Fred's favorite teacher.

In 1921 John passed away leaving his wife Jennie (in the Ukrainian language her name was Paranka) with seven children to care for. The older girls, Katie and Jennie were grown up. Katie had been born in 1891 and Jennie in 1894 — they were half sisters to the other Radowits children.

Mike, being the oldest, had to take full charge of the farm and year after year, he made progress with all the family staying home and working together.

In 1924 he bought a used threshing machine and

steam engine from Mr. Sarnecki, east of Calmar. They started threshing at the Sarnecki place first and threshed along the way as they moved home. It took until the 4th of January before they got their own crop threshed. The threshing in those days was all stack threshing so the winter didn't stop it. The outfit must have been in good condition as they threshed every day from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. All the farmers had a good supply of fire wood and a handy place to get water for the steam engine.

A few years later Mike bought a sawmill. It was just a small outfit and took 7 men to operate it. It kept the family busy, threshing in the fall and sawing lumber in the winter. They used the steam engine for 3 more years of threshing and then retired it to sawing lumber only. A new International tractor was purchased for

threshing.

From 1935 to 1976 there were some tragic years for the family. Bill had married and moved onto his own farm nearer Calmar and was the father of one son Archie. In 1935 Bill died leaving his wife and very young son.

Mike had married Anna Sikora of Calmar and they had 3 sons and a little daughter born in 1942. Their children were named Joe, Alex, Walter and Phyllys.

Mike died in 1945 leaving Anna with the children all still at home. Steve and George had married and moved away. Fred and Anna were married and living nearby. Fred farmed at first on his own land just across the road to the west from the home place. Later he moved into Thorsby and operated a chopmill business. Anna had married John Powlik and they lived in Thorsby where he owned a garage. Nick remained at home with his mother and never married.

In 1955 Anna Powlik died leaving her husband John and 3 children, Lorraine, Roger and Gerald. Her death occurred in January and her children were still

attending school.

Our mother Jennie, who had been such a source of strength to the family died in the winter of 1960. She had spent the last few years of her life in her own small home in Thorsby with Nick staying with her.

Katherine Mudry, our half sister who had married Mike Mudry a long time before and lived one half mile from the Radowits home place until the last years of her life, which were spent in Edmonton, died in 1963. Our half sister Jennie, who had married Steve Pankewicz and raised their family on a farm several miles west, died in 1976 at the age of 82.

Steve and his wife Dolly live in Everett, Washington. George and his wife Jean, (who was a daughter of the Harrish family near Thorsby) live in Summerland, B.C. They have retired there after being farmers, business people and lastly motel owners. They have one daughter Elaine who lives in the United States. Fred has 2 daughters Jeanette and Angeline living in Edmonton. Fred and his wife Anne are retired and live in Penticton, B.C. Nick lives in Leduc. Bill's son Archie lives in B.C. Mike's family all married and live in Alberta.

This account of the Radowits family was prepared by Fred and he has set it down as accurately as he can recall. Since he was much younger than some of the children, he wasn't born when much of their early history was taking place. The dates are correct as far as he knows.

THE RADOWITS FAMILY

By Shirley Radowits

Mike Radowits farmed two quarters of land 2 miles south and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Thorsby. He inherited one quarter of land from his father John Radowits and bought an adjoining east quarter from Mr. Boddaly. Previous to this it was owned by Mr. Sendziak, who had homesteaded it.

Mike Radowits passed away Aug. 1945, leaving his wife Anna with 3 sons and a young daughter. Joe, the oldest of the boys had taken his grade 12 at Calmar and graduated from there in 1943. Alex, was 18 years of age at the time of his dad's passing. After starting the school term in grade 11, he quit school and helped the family tend to the farm. Walter was 12 years old and his sister Phyllys 2½ years old at the time.

A year and a half later Anna married John Mudry and from this marriage a daughter, Marie-Jane was born. Mrs. Mudry continued to live on the farm with her family while Mr. Mudry worked with construction of highways and moved with his camp.

The Radowits name was familiar to our household and they were no strangers to us since my folks, Mike E. and Katie Kuzio lived only 3 miles away from their place.

On June 7, 1956, I, Shirley married Alex Radowits. Previous to our marriage, I had been living with my sister and brother-in-law, Helen and John Smigelski and worked at the Post Office Terminal in Edmonton for \$1.10 an hour with a lot of over-time pay in order to help Alex with our wedding expenses. Later I worked for Edmonton Hair Specialists. I quit work to help organize our wedding and contact our neighbours and relatives (no phones then) and distribute the food for cooking for our wedding.

Ours was the first wedding reception held in the New Thorsby Community Center. Benches, tables and dishers were borrowed from other organizations, water was hauled in cream-cans and garbage pails provided. Cooking was done at homes and brought in to be kept warm on a small stove on the upper floor. There was no cement or flooring in the lower level where the kitchen and dining area are now.

A new home was being built on the Radowits farm several years before Alex and I were married. Although not completed at the time of our marriage, we moved into it and progressed from there, planting grass, trees, and shrubs. However several shelterbelts had been planted earlier and were growing favourably.

Since Alex was employed with Texaco Oil

rented one quarter of our farm land, and farmed one the first two years of our marriage.



Joe, Walter and Alex Radowits with string on turkey gobbler to lead him home, 1937.

I got a job at Thorsby Department Store and enjoyed working for Abe Goldstein and Fred Manus. Rather than riding to work with Alex early in the morning, I rode on the school bus to Thorsby every morning. Often the school bus gave other "hikers" a ride into town. Later, rules and regulations did not permit this.

By leaving for work later than Alex, I managed to get chores done, such as carrying in water, wood and coal for the furnace and toted out ashes, garbage, and slops for the pigs. Alex's mother did some of the other farm chores, therefore when we got home from work, most of them were done before dark. In 1959 we installed an oil furnace and water works, making our household and farm tasks much easier. The phone line came in soon after.

Alex's brother Joe married my sister Verna in July, 1956. He was working for Pembina Pipeline at the time and until a company home was available, Verna lived with us for 4 months.

I remember the two of us stooking grain to help Alex, and we were so proud of our accomplishment. Much to our despair, a strong wind came up overnight and most of the stooks toppled over, for Alex to restook the next day.

Also, I recall Verna, Alex and I picking pailfuls of blueberries and when Joe arrived on week-ends he found us over-stocked with canning. Perhaps it was a habit inherited from our past, since we came from a family of 13 children and were used to gardening and canning in huge amounts.

On Dec. 13, 1957 Alex and I were very happy to have a baby daughter, Janet. From childhood, she got accustomed to our outdoor way of life and enjoyed our many trips, picnics and baseball games. Alex being an avid sportsman, we attended every Sports Day in Thorsby and surrounding communities. Since we were raising beef cattle, we were fortunate to be able to leave the farm for many hours.

In 1958 Alex quit his job at Texaco to undertake

farming on his own.

On June 9, 1962 we were overjoyed with an addition to our family. Our second daughter Sharon came home, a healthy, happy baby after quite some time in the hospital after her birth. She too, adapted quickly to our way of life, and even now many years later recalls the good times we spent on the farm. Since our yard was big and comfortable, we were very content to entertain at home often holding our parties outdoors. We enjoyed having our relatives spend their week-ends with us.

For several years after the children were in school, I worked at the Auction Mart and later at a local

hair-dresser, part-time.

In 1970 Alex underwent a brain tumor operation. We again gave the land for rent but 2 years later after Alex's recovery, we rented out just the east quarter belonging to his brothers Joe and Walter, and worked our quarter putting up the hay and grain for our stock.

When we realized Alex would have to undergo a second operation in Jan., 1976, we resigned ourselves to the fact that we would have to sell out. Through the operation Alex was partially paralysed and underwent many months of treatment, so in the spring of 1976 we sold our farm to Mr. Robert Arndt. Joe and Walter also sold their land the same year.

We had a home built in the new sub-division in the west end of Thorsby, and moved into it at the end of Aug., 1976. Although Alex did not regain use of his right arm, he planned his days and worked diligently to get the yard done around our new home. Throughout his illness, he kept the family's spirit up by being understanding and co-operative. He managed to see most of his wishes completed before he succumbed to a third tumor which took his life on Aug. 22, 1977.



Rodney and Janet Meyer (nee Radowits), June 3, 1978.

Unfortunately he did not live to witness the marriage of our daughter Janet to Rodney Meyer on June 3, 1978. Their marriage was a special occasion for us, and I'm certainly a proud mother-in-law. Janet and Rodney are both employed and living in Edmonton. They are able to visit Sharon and me often.

Sharon is attending Sr. High School in Thorsby at present.

I'm grateful to be living in a community such as Thorsby with my friends and relatives near by.

The Mike E. Kuzio family alone has expanded to 74 members.



Back row: Rick Radowits, Joe Radowits, Anna Mudry, Phyllys Alexander, Verna Radowits, Alex Radowits, Shirley Radowits, Janet (Radowits) Meyer. Front row: Darrell Radowits, Jane Mudry, (second row), Kevin Radowits, Lance Alexander, Walter Radowits, Ellen Radowits, Sharon Radowits. Dec., 1976.

Besides us the Radowits family consists of my mother-in-law Mrs. Anna Mudry (who has been residing in an apartment in Drayton Valley for the past $3\frac{1}{2}$ years), Joe and Verna Radowits of Drayton Valley, who have 2 sons Rick and Darrell (both boys have graduated from school and are employed, Joe has been working with Pembina Pipeline for over 23 years), Walter and Ellen Radowits and son Kevin (Walter is employed by the Forestry in Edson), Phyllys and Lance Alexander (both teachers in Calgary) and Jane Mudry (employed in Vancouver).

This calls for many family get-togethers and to listen to us, one would think our family alone made

history.

THE ROOS FAMILY

John Roos immigrated to Lethbridge from Holland in 1910. From there he moved to a farm at Medicine Hat where he met and married Elizabeth Errington in 1915. They farmed at Medicine Hat until October 1924, when they moved to the Dniester district with their family.

John Roos owned a quarter section of land (NW 5-49-1 W5). The Roos family moved to the district at the same time as Mrs. Roos's brother Jack Errington and their mother arrived. They had shipped their stock together by train to Leduc and herded them from Leduc to Thorsby. They brought all their household possessions. Most of these were ruined by the steady rain of the first 2 weeks they were there. They brought several head of cattle and 2 ponies, which had to feed on the open hay meadows for the first winter.

John cleared 90-100 acres of land by hand in the years they lived on that farm.

Their first home was a log house which Elizabeth surrounded with flowers in the years to come. Elizabeth was always a great flower lover and must have had a green thumb, as everything seemed to grow for her.

John was a school trustee on the Dniester School

Board. Bill, Bert, George, Herman, Isabelle, and Jim — 6 of their 7 children — attended Dniester School.

Mr. and Mrs. Roos Sr. joined John and Elizabeth and family in 1935. They resided there until 1939, when Mr. and Mrs. Roos Sr., John, Elizabeth, and family, all moved to Buck Creek. They had another son Johan after moving to Buck Creek.

Mr. John Roos passed away in July, 1971, after a short illness and Elizabeth passed away after a lengthy illness. They were predeceased by their son Herman

in 1967.

Bill, Bert, Isabelle and Johan all live at Buck Creek with Jim at Breton and George living at Wetaskiwin.

DAVID ROSS FAMILY HISTORY

by Gwendolyn A. Ross

I was the youngest daughter of P.B. and Maud Callaway and was born in Spokane, Washington in 1919. We came to Alberta when I was about three years old. In 1930 a little brother named Roger came into our home.

Growing up in the Depression years was uneventful for me. I'm sure our parents shared many worries about low income and meeting the annual C.P.R. payments on their half section of land. It was unimproved when they bought it and they, and my two older sisters worked very hard to clear much of it for cultivation. Mom and Dad were extremely good parents and good managers, so there was always lots to eat and to share with whoever came along. Their Christian lives and the belief that God helps those who help themselves made a lasting impression on me. They believed in taking responsibilities in the community and shared in its development in every way they could.

When I was about 10, I helped them clean the well out. It was a dug well about 12 feet deep. They emptied it with pails and then let me down into the bottom. I filled pails of sludge and Dad pulled them up and emptied them. I felt very proud to be of help in such an important job (in my estimation). The water from that well was hard and had so much iron in it that pails turned a rust color inside very soon. It was replaced with a bored well many years later and the water from it was soft.

As I grew up my jobs were to do a lot of housework while others in the family did the outside chores and heavier work. There were always milk cans to wash as they milked up to 25 cows by hand and we had 17 milk cans. On Monday mornings during the spring and summer when the cows were in full production Mom would awaken me at 4 a.m. and I would take the first load of milk to the Thorsby cheese factory. When I returned they would refill most of the cans and Mom would take that load. In those days can washers in cheese factories were unheard of. Before the cheese factory was built in Thorsby we hauled milk to Buford

factory and I did some of that in summertime.

I was 11 years old and hauling milk with an iron wheeled wagon to Buford when the horses ran away. It could have been tragic but instead turned out to be funny (although I was terrified at the time). The mornings were cold and my mother had an old black coat that she insisted I wear when I left with the milk. The horses were old and quiet and I wasn't paying too much attention to the lines. One dropped down in between the horses and I stepped out onto the tongue and leaned down to retrieve the line. The black coat scared one of the horses and they took off with me huddled on the tongue and hanging on to the harness with all of my might. I knew if I fell off they would trample me. Roger was along and he jumped off the wagon and ran back towards home yelling his head off. The team ran off the road and into the bush that lined Bill Zingle's fence and the left horse became entangled in the barbed wire fence. That stopped them and your little heroine got off, removed the offending coat and went to Zingles for help. Mrs. Zingle came back with me and got the horses back on the road and I continued with the milk. Roger hadn't gone too far and he came back and rode with me to the cheese factory. Mom said later I was covered with bruises but I don't remember the pain. There were other runaways in later years, one of the horses would run if she was hitched to a buggy, but I was never hurt in the ones I was involved in.

That was probably why I preferred a bicycle as I grew up. I acquired the first one when I was 13. It was a 28 inch frame and Mom and I got it in Edmonton second-hand for \$11.00. It was so high I used blocks of wood to stand on to mount it and the family used to laugh about the blocks of wood they saw in the road when Gwen rode her bike. Later a new bicycle was bought in Eaton's store for \$29.95 and I proudly rode home on the Breton bus with the new bike on top of the bus in the luggage rack.

Dad had given me a pig and it sold for about a nickel more than the bike cost. It was fun cycling to Pigeon Lake with any friend who had a bike. We would take a lunch along and ride down to Mulhurst and have a picnic.

Saturday afternoons were mine to relax in if I had cleaned our house which was large, washed the milk cans and anything else (the dinner dishes perhaps?). After a bath in the round galvanized wash tub I would walk to Thorsby which was almost 4 miles from our place. If the weather was dry and the roads smooth the bike was used, otherwise one walked. Upon reaching Thorsby there were always a few of my cronies there and we would socialize in Jim Howe's Chinese Cafe over an ice cream cone, pop, or if someone had a few spare coins, we indulged in a banana split or sundae. About 6 p.m. it was time to walk home again. One night it was about 20° below zero and I almost froze. No heavy parkas in the 1930's and Mom thought it wasn't lady-like to wear trousers. I could sew and had made myself a heavy woolen skirt and wore it with a turtle neck sweater she knitted for me and a doeskin jacket (doeskin was a heavy cotton material and quite warm). That was my attire the winter I was 15 and 16. She bought me a winter coat with light fur collar and cuffs from Thorsby Traders that year and when I discovered it shed grey hairs all over whatever it came in contact with I preferred the jacket.

There were very cold walks to local Christmas programs too. My cousin Thelma and I walked home from Weed Creek School with the Drewoth brothers one night, and when we reached my home we weren't too far from being frozen. The boys had another $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to walk back to their home after they warmed up over our furnace register. My folks had one of those furnaces that had only one large register in the living room floor and the warm air was supposed (?) to circulate over the other rooms. It was warm on the register but the warmth never quite reached the rooms farther away, especially my bedroom. The frost would cover all the nail heads during winter time. When one is young little annoyances like cold aren't important, living was fun and one wanted as much fun as they could find. We had house parties that lasted far into the night, games, lunch at midnight and more games. Most of the guests walked to these parties and some came 6 miles, and there was no sleeping in when morning came either, as chores came first.

On Christmas Eve 1940 I married David Ross. The ceremony took place in my parent's home with the Rev. D.C. McTavish performing it. David had been in the army since Sept. and expected to be sent overseas shortly. He wasn't, so I remained at home until that spring and then went to Vancouver with him on a furlough. His regiment was transferred there and I stayed with my sister Edith Clouston and her family until the fall of 1942 when I returned to Alberta and helped my folks until he came back from overseas. We were married more than 5 years before we could establish our own home, Our first child, Carole, was born in Vancouver in June of 1942.

Our home, when he received his discharge from the army, was on the quarter of land I had bought from the Canadian Farm Loan Board for \$2500.00. It had been vacant for awhile when we moved on and the old log buildings were very run down. The land was originally the homestead of Kost Sendziak and records show he filed on it on Jan. 31, 1906. I suspect the first log cabin he erected on it was a part of the old house we moved into, and lived in for 9 years.

We had a few head of stock from my parents and some chickens. My sister Helen Green and her husband gave us a pig, and she also gave me some hens. Dad helped us with machinery and with some of the farming. Later he and David bought a Case tractor in partnership from Fred King and we bought a rubber tired wagon from King. That was a mode of transportation for a few years, to Thorsby and to

Pigeon Lake for picnics.

In 1952 we decided to raise pigs and buy a new truck from the sale of the young ones. This brought on a disaster. The 5 sows farrowed large litters and the piglets looked healthy at first. Soon there were dead pigs in the pen, with apparently no reason. The last sow had 9 live ones and she couldn't get up to nurse them. We called Dr. Saito from Leduc and he diagnosed the problem as swine erysipelas and vaccinated the last live ones. We took the 9 baby pigs into the house and put them into a tub half full of straw, planning to feed them by bottle. This was very demanding as they were hungry every two hours. The second night I wasn't awakened by their squealing and that morning when I got up I found 7 dead pigs and the other 2 almost dead. I had covered them with another tub inverted and it had slipped down too tightly and they had smothered. I sat on the floor beside the tubful of dead pigs and cried. So much for the pig industry!



David and Gwen Ross with children Lowell and Carole beside flowing well on their farm,



Right. Water well drilling equipment of Victor Sandstrom in operation on David Ross farm



New Year's Day, 1952. The snow didn't come until Jan. 3, 1953 that winter. L. to R. Gwen Ross, her uncle Jim Callaway, Mrs. J. Vaughn, Miss Doreen Vaughn, David Ross. In front, Lowell and Carole Ross.

We bought the truck that winter but it was a second-hand one, financed by the bank. New Year's Day of 1953 was so warm we left the door open while we ate dinner and the ground was bare. On Jan. 3, 1953, David walked to Thorsby to pick up the truck and it snowed while he was gone. That night we drove it to Morrowdale to church. It was the first ride in it for the family who had now grown to three children.

Lowell was born in Aug. 1946 and Brian was born in Jan. 1950. When Lowell was 2 years old we celebrated his birthday with added joy because of an artesian well. We had gotten by with an old bored well on the farm that never had enough water in it. Victor Sandstrom was engaged to drill a new one. He witched a spot and at 93 feet hit a flowing well of excellent soft water. The well is still flowing for the present owner, Harry Hennig.

The winter of 1953 I became very sick and Dr. Hankin diagnosed it as erysipelas. We think I caught it from handling the infected pigs.

The fall of 1954 brought a better house. We bought a 22 x 28 ft. home from Waldemar Brandt and had it moved about 4 miles to our place and put over a basement. That little house seemed like a palace after the old log one and was so comfortable and warm. No cracks for the wind and snow to blow through and smooth plastered walls. We were progressing, and the family were increasing too. In Feb. of 1955 Wauneita was born and in Nov. 1956 the youngest, a son named Averill was born. He was named after Averill Harriman, the U.S. Statesman.

David began working for the Beaver Lumber Co. in Thorsby in 1955. He worked during their busy months. The next year he worked at Nu-Way Store for 9 months. That winter he built new cupboards in our kitchen with only a hand saw, butcher knife and hammer as his tools. They were very well built and a source of pride to all of us.

The next year he went back to Beaver and continued there for almost 20 years. We built a new dairy barn in 1958 and our fortunes improved, as with better accommodation we could milk more cows. He hauled the milk to the cheese factory on his way to work every morning.

We always had a flock of hens and I set my own

hens and raised chickens, one year I hatched out over 300 baby chicks. We sold eggs to the egg stations first and then began selling to customers. When the boys were old enough to obtain their driver's licenses we would take eggs to Edmonton every two weeks, sometimes as many as 100 dozen. The price was 35¢ a doz. and in the late 1960's when I raised it to 40¢ a few customers bought elsewhere. Young chickens were a selling item too and the hens were dressed and sold after their productive life was over.

The Roselee Hatchery in Stony Plain sponsored a "Handsome Rooster Contest" in 1966 and their representative suggested I enter it. By that time we were buying baby chicks from them and he knew about my interest in chickens.

Soon after my parents were married they were on their way with horse and buggy to Benge (a little town near their home in Washington state) and along the road they saw a Barred Rock hen all by itself. Thinking it had gotten out of some settler's crate, they picked it up and took it home. She laid some eggs and then turned broody. Mom set her on the eggs and they hatched out in due time. The chickens had beautiful double rose combs upon reaching maturity and she kept them. Some of the hen's descendants were brought to Alberta, and in the course of time I received some with the same double rose comb.

I mixed the Barred Rock chickens with New Hampshire and Black Minorcas and found a few oddly colored chickens amongst the offspring I hatched. They looked very pretty with feathers colored like a pheasant. I discovered these hens laid speckled eggs so saved them to set. The result was more chickens with brilliant hues in their feathers. It was some of these the hatchery man saw and was interested in.

David, Wauneita, Averill and I took my parents along and two of the fanciest looking roosters to the Farmers Day Fair in Stony Plain and after the votes for the handsomest rooster were counted, our prettiest one had won the contest. Mr. Dan Dale of Roselee Hatchery presented us with a ribbon bearing a First Prize rosette on it and 50 lbs. of chicken feed.

We named the rooster Champ after that and he lived a few years, we still have a wing as a souvenir of him. He had descended from the hen found over 50 years before.

In 1968 I had the good fortune to represent our Lutheran Church Women as a delegate at the triennial convention in Chicago. David took his holidays then and went along. When the convention was over we continued on to West Virginia and Virginia states to visit relatives I had never met. That holiday provided me with a new interest, for we met a cousin who had researched my mother's side of our family back to 1160, to French ancestry. I became so interested that I developed the family tree up to the present time for all members of the family. That quest provided the interest in history that likely sparked my enthusiasm for this history book. The work on it has been one of the most gratifying and challenging tasks I've ever



Family of David Ross at wedding of their daughter, Wauneita, to Richard Garrett on July 15, 1978.
L. to R. Averill, David (father), Lowell his wife, Barbara, Gwen (mother), Wauneita and Richard, Carole, Brian and his wife, Louise. Their daughter Candace in front. Grandson Curtis Ross missing.

undertaken.

Our children were growing up and leaving to seek higher education. Carole had married Andris Strauss in 1965 and moved to the United States to live. She graduated fromThorsby High School in 1960 and attended the University of Alberta and then McTavish Business College before her marriage and had worked in Edmonton.

Lowell became a school teacher and taught in Genesee the last year that district had a 2-room school. He then taught in Leduc and has been at New Sarepta for several years. He and Barbara Hamilton were married in Dec. 1975 and moved in to their newly built home in Mill Woods this last Dec. Barbara works as a secretary.

Brian graduated from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology after a two year course in Telecommunication Technology and worked for Alberta Govt. Telephones for several years. He and Louise Sorenson were married in 1969 and live in High Prairie. She is employed there with the school division. In 1979 Brian quit A.G.T. and set up his own construction business. They have 2 children, Candace and Curtis, who are at present our only grandchildren.

Wauneita has worked for the Provincial Govt. since she graduated from high school and has enjoyed her vacations with travelling to distant points.

She and Richard Garrett were married in July 1978 and live in Edmonton. Richard teaches school in Leduc. Jr. High School.

Averill graduated from Thorsby High School in 1974 and then worked at various types of employment. In 1977 he graduated from Lethbridge Community College with a diploma in Community and Youth Leadership. He has travelled around quite a lot and in the summer of 1978 worked as surveyor for the Federal Govt. in the Arctic. He is presently apprenticing as an electrician in Edmonton.

When the year 1973 arrived there seemed too much work to do on the farm and too few people to do it so we decided to sell. We received 10 times what we

had paid for it and bought a house in Thorsby. We held an auction sale and moved into town in Sept. of that year.

David is retired and there is more time for pursuing the things that interest us. We are both very thankful that God has blessed us so abundantly and showered so many of His mercies upon our family. We hope that we can make our lives count for Him in some way.

STEPHEN & ELIZABETH SULZ

by their family

Stephen and Elizabeth came to Medicine Hat, Alberta in June 1907 from Bessarabia, Russia. They were accompanied by their small son Emmanuel (he was later known as Slim) and Elizabeth's son, John Hier, from a previous marriage.

They lived in Medicine Hat for 10 years and Stephen was employed with Alberta Clay Products. Four children were born to them while there, Alfred, Benjamin, Elfrieda and Jacob. The next move was to Schuler, a district about 40 miles north-east. A homestead was to be the family's next home and a sod house was built. It had rails for rafters, and they had to be hauled from Cypress Hills, 70 miles south.

The trip took about 4 days, there and back. Homesteading meant hard times, and everyone able to work had to. The land was rocky and rocks had to be dug out and hauled off in a stoneboat. The land was broken with a sulky plow and 4 horses. Winters were rough with no coal to burn. Cow chips had to be gathered and stored for fuel.

Three more children were added to the family while on the prairie, Emma, Henry and Norman. It was then decided to move north and Leduc was their destination. After a few years in that area they bought their own land across from Dniester School and in



Alfred and Ben Sulz trimming logs.



Chop mill owned by John Hier and Alf Sulz, 1937.

1927 moved onto it, the S.E. 49-6-1-W5. A log house consisting of 2 rooms and an attic, along with a few other old buildings were on the farm.

In 1929 Alfred and Ben hewed logs and built a new barn. Elfrieda, Jacob, Henry, Emma and Norman all attended the Dniester School. Their teachers were Wilfred Fors, the McDonald girls and Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Fox.

Slim had grown up and was making his own way. Alfred and Ben worked both on the farm and away. They cleared land by contract, their wages averaging 50¢ to \$1.00 a day. Winters were spent hauling tamarack rails and lumber to Leduc or Kavanagh.

Alfred left home in 1935 and bought a chopmill in Thorsby along with his brother-in-law Emil Fink. It had been located there about 4 years before and belonged to Clinton See and John Meckley. Alfred and Emil paid \$500.00 for it and it had 6 to 10 customers a day. Some brought in 2 or 3 sacks of grain and the grinding fee was 6¢ a sack. Taxes were about \$10.00 a year. Emil died from typhoid fever soon afterward and John Hier bought his share. They operated the mill for 3 years and then sold it to Leo Wedman for about \$700.00.

John then bought a blacksmith shop from Dan Bilou and Alfred worked with him for a few years. They had the Massey-Harris machinery agency but business wasn't brisk enough so Alfred sold his interest and began carpentering. This he continued until retiring in 1975. Alfred built buildings all around the district as well as in the hamlet of Thorsby. He worked with Nick Senetchko and they put up many buildings in Thorsby. The small and medium sized apartments in Thorsby were built and owned by him. At one time he owned quite a bit of real estate in the town. Wages in 1938 were 25¢ an hour, in 1942 they went up to 90¢ and continued to rise. When Alfred

retired, he was charging \$4.00 an hour and was working as a finishing carpenter. He worked in the Thorsby Library, Keaschuk's store and the Thorsby Theatre. Alf died in January of 1979.

Slim and Ben joined the army in 1939 and served overseas. Henry joined the R.C.A.F., in 1941 and was killed in action in 1944. After Ben returned from overseas he bought a half section of land near Warburg. He remained a bachelor and sold his farm in 1965 and moved to Fort St. John, B.C. The rest of his life was spent there; he was killed in an accident in 1973.

Elfrieda worked for some of the neighbors, doing housework for 3 years and then married a neighbor's son, Emil Fink in 1932. They farmed south east of Sunnybrook for a short time and then moved into Thorsby. When a typhoid fever outbreak occurred in the district in 1936 they both became sick. She recovered and after Emil's death she and their little son Marvin continued to live in Thorsby. In 1943 she married Emil's younger brother Arthur and they moved back to the Fink farm at Dniester. A few years later they returned to Thorsby and Art worked in the cheese factory for 2 years and then took a mechanics course and worked at that trade until ill health forced him to retire. He passed away in November 1977.

Their only child was born in 1953 and was named James. When Marvin was 19 he left Thorsby to make his own way. He and James both attended Thorsby schools. James graduated and went on for R.C.M.P. training at Regina, Sask. In 1978 he is stationed in Kamloops, B.C.

Marvin married Irene Behn of St. Lina in 1953 and they operated a store until he became employed with the oil industry. For the past 15 years he had worked overseas, his family all live in Edmonton. He and Irene have 3 children; Roxanne, Gregory and Lisa.

James married Rita Cote of Cadillac, Sask. and they have 2 children Renee and Mark.

Jacob has made his home in the Warburg district since 1943. Mr. & Mrs. Sulz continued to live on the farm at Dniester until 1941 when they rented the Maurice Canfield farm for 3 years. After that they moved to the Warburg district to farm until 1950 when they retired into Warburg. She died in 1954 and Stephen lived to be 84 and died in 1966.

Mr. Sulz gave land for the first Seventh Day Adventist church to be built on his farm at Dniester in 1939. When it was sold to Pete Klymko in 1941 he did not want the church on the property so the congregation moved it less than a mile west and across the road to another piece of land they had acquired.

Mrs. Sulz spent a lot of time spinning and knitting. She knitted mittens, socks and sweaters from wool the family took off their own sheep. The family recall they often went to sleep in the winter time with the hum of their mother's spinning wheel in their ears, and awoke next morning to its sound. She would stay up all night and spin so that she could stoke the fires with wood. She was an extremely hard working woman and lived



Picture in 1945. L. to R. Back, John Hier, holding Doreen, Don Hier, Ben Sulz, Father Sulz, Mother, Lil Hier, Harriet and husband "Slim", Elfreida, Art Fink. Front, Sharon Hier, Peggy, Alfred, Veona and Norman Sulz.

by the Golden Rule. The sons remember they had to card the wool many times for their mother. Stephen kept busy with the never ending farm chores and in his spare time cut quantities of fire wood. He sold many loads of it in Thorsby for \$2.00 a load. When his wife's health began to fail he learned to milk cows and at the age of 60 years took over the milking chore from her.

Slim was invalided home from overseas in 1944 and later married Harriet Pickett of Olds. They made their home in Red Deer where he operated a shoe repair business. After some years they moved to Penhold and now are back in Red Deer where he works as a Commissionaire. They have 4 children Janet, Judy, Stephen, and Christine.

Emma worked for the Fox family and then in Thorsby for the John Rolstron family before moving to Vancouver, B.C. in 1939. She later married Dr. Larry Mason and they had 3 children Larry, James and Kathy. Emma now resides in Edmonton.

John Hier married Lily Wedman of Leduc and lived most of his life in Thorsby. He became it's first mayor after it was incorporated as a village.

Norman remained on the family farm in the Warburg district. There are 22 grandchildren of Stephen and Elizabeth and 20 great grandchildren living in 1978.

GABRIEL SYCH AND FAMILY

by Aldona Harrish

In 1905, Gabriel and Kate (Domzy) Sych, with their family of 3, left Austria and came to Canada. He was persuaded to come by his brother, John, who had been in Canada since 1889. They stayed with John and his family near Calmar until he found his own homestead. On May 29, he filed a homestead on SW 22-48-1 W5, for \$10.00. With the help of his family, he cleared about 30 acres and built a log house. Gabriel came to Canada with \$300.00, with which he was also able to buy 2 horses, a cow, a plough, and

build a barn. His neighbors donated a chicken coop.

He and his wife worked hard. Cutting logs and posts was a full-time job. What they didn't need for their own use, they hauled to Leduc and sold.

The oldest of their children, Metro, was 13 years of age when they came over and was a big help until he passed away in 1918 at the young age of 26.

Anna, their second, was only 11 years old, but had to join in with the work involved to make a living. In her early teens she was out in the bush cutting logs and often went along with her father to snare rabbits, their main food supply. In 1911, Anna married John Halwa and moved to a farm northeast of Calmar. They had a family of 10 children. Anna is now residing in the Kiwanis Lodge in Edmonton.

Hazel was 5 when she came to the new land, and also did her part in helping with the work. She was married in 1917 to Nick Dobko, but was widowed a year later with an infant son. She soon married Harry Sharko. They are now retired and living in Edmonton.

In the year 1906, another daughter, Bessie, was born. She started school at Buford and later attended Riverford. In 1926, Bessie married Walter Lopushinsky and they are now living in Edmonton.

Bill Sych was born in 1910. He received his education at Riverford School. Bill stayed on the farm with his parents, but due to ill health, did not share in the farm work. He learned to play the violin and dulcimer, and became a very popular musician. Bill passed away at the age of 33.

Gabriel lost his wife in 1948 and he died in 1952.

HISTORY OF WEED CREEK UNION SUNDAY SCHOOL CHURCH

By James M. Callaway

We came to what is now known as the Thorsby district in 1922. It was then the Dniester School district. We were the forerunners of several other families from the States who settled in the area. They all came within the next 2 or 3 years.

The Allred family had moved up in the fall of 1921 but they moved away within a short time. Others who came were the Martin Stellmaker family, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Delhendorf, The Herb, Ed and Gus Vath families, My brother P.B. Callaway and family, the Schoonover family, Mr. & Mrs. Clee Hale and in 1925 the Emanuel Helfenstein family from southern Alberta.

Some of these families were religious people and began holding Sunday worship services in their homes by way of Sunday School. We joined them and Sunday School was held in different homes each week. The first service was held in my home with the Rev. H.G. Rice of the United Church offering his services to us.

Sunday School attendance increased when the P.B. Callaway and other families joined us. It continued to increase to the point where a house of



Sunday School group in 1933.
Martin Stellmaker
superintendent. Miss Alma
Fredricks deaconess seated in
centre. Some of the families were,
Vaths, Delherdorfs, Callaways,
Helfensteins, Erringtons, Dedios,
Stellmakers, Sulzs, Massners,
Kison, Okerts, and the John
Rooses.

worship needed to be found.

With Stellmakers, Delhendorfs, Vaths and the two Callaway families working together, a congregation was organized and a church built. It was done with volunteer labor, lumber and some cash donations. P.B. Callaway gave an acre of land on his farm on the Town Line on the Little Weed Creek. It was the most central location for all. The Rev. Walter Krotz of the Evangelical Church came out from Edmonton, and later from New Sarepta to preach one Sunday a month. He conducted the Dedication service of the church in 1929 or 30. The Rev. Rice continued to serve one Sunday a month as did some Baptist and Pentecostal ministers. When the Rev. Rice was replaced by the Rev. T.F. McGregor, and later by the Rev. D.C. McTavish, they also served the congregation. A Dr. Barton of the United Church also held meetings in it during one winter.

Many young people and children of nearby settlers came to the church and it became a focal point of the community. The original families kept the church going and there was always someone in the congregation who could play the organ. The organ, pulpit and some hymn books had been given to the church from an Evangelical Church in Edmonton.

The church remained an undenominational one with people of all Christian faiths welcome to worship and preach in it. When the Seventh Day Adventists formed a congregation and had no church they worshipped in it on Saturdays and an evangelist minister of their denomination, The Rev. John Neufeld held revival meetings quite often it it. Many of the older people who attended them will always remember the singing. He had a wonderful voice and really sang out. He taught some of the young people to sing one winter.

Other faiths held revivals there as well. The Rev. Walter Fredericks, MacCallum, Stronstead and several others held Pentecostal meetings and revival services many times.

In 1935 Mrs. Martin Stellmaker died. She had been a very strong supporter of the church and was a

very devout woman. Her death was a serious loss to the congregation.

Sunday services continued to be held twice a day with Sunday School in the morning before the worship service. An attendance of 60 to 80 people was common each Sunday with many more if something special was going on. Sometimes a brass band from the Leduc area or a choir from elsewhere came. Each summer the annual Sunday School picnic attracted lots of people with each family bringing food for a potluck dinner under the trees. Childrens' races would be run and sometimes the young people played a ball game. There was lots of visiting and the picnic was a very pleasant interlude in the lives of people who were overworked and had no money for frills of any kind.

In 1932 the first wedding was solemnized with



Annual picnic of congregation on grounds behind church.

Cora Dedio and William Zingel united in marriage.

The work continued to flourish for several years. But as sometimes happens, dissension and dissatisfaction entered. One group wanted to take over control of the building for their denomination. It had been founded and built on the stipulation it remain undenominational, and the church board refused to change their minds so in 1939 about half of the congregation broke away and obtained another piece of land a half mile east on the same road and built themselves a new church building. It was dedicated in the fall of 1939 and was known as the Thorsby Pentecostal Tabernacle.



The Weed Creek Union Church, 1941, with some of the congregation.

Miss Ruth King, a missionary from three Hills Prairie Bible Institute at
extreme right.

The Union Church was never the same after that. The Rev. Krotz was transferred to Ontario and there was no Evangelical minister to replace him. Some of the young people had married and moved away. Some of the young men entered the service when war broke out and the Delhendorf family moved to Vancouver,

The young peoples group that had been very active shrunk until only a few were left to carry on. It finally dwindled to none. Mrs. Mildred McAllister, a school teacher who had trained in a Bible School in Toronto before her marriage, held Sunday services in the church during the late 1940's. There was such a small attendance that she began holding services at other points and then was too busy to come every week as she also taught school and had a family and home to care for besides.

The last wedding performed in the church was that of Gertie Gulde and John Wegner in 1939.

A few of the people who had been regular attendants joined the Seventh Day Adventist Church which was built about 1940 across from the Dniester School.

Finally the little church which had never been completely finished stood empty. It burned down in the early 1950's from a fire of undertermined origin.

It had witnessed over a span of time to the faith and devotion of many of the early pioneers of the Dniester, Weed Creek and Sunnybrook districts. Many still cherish fond memories of the times of fellowship in the little church beside the road at Weed Creek.

ALBERT & ANNA ZIERATH

By Irma Schmidt

Albert was born on August 1, 1906 in Morochinka near Schitomir, Wolhynia. Albert came from a large family, the son of Julius and Maria Zierath (nee Herman). The family and young Albert worked hard and endured a lot of hardships in Russia. Albert and his father built and rebuilt flour and oil mills and did some farming. They had been sent to Siberia too, like so many other families. On the way up there two of his



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Zierath, 1978.

brothers, age 8 and 9, died. After living in Siberia for 6 years they came back to Wolhynia, there the youngest brother died.

Anna was born in Petropawlovsk, Siberia on Nov. 29, 1909. That family too, endured hardships like so many families at that time.

In 1930 Albert and Anna (nee Rehband) married. With so much unrest in Russia, the family moved about several times. In the fall of 1943 they were evacuated out of Russia to Poland, and in January 1945 out of Poland to Germany near Leipsig-Sachslen. In September 1945 Albert was released from the army, just in time for the funeral of their son, Robert age 8. Robert was a victim of ammunition that the war had left behind. Another boy died at a young age. The family farmed in East Germany until Sept. 1952, then fled to West Germany via Berlin, and then were flown to Hamburg. They lived in different camps until immigrating to Canada in May 1953. Albert and Anna landed with their family of 7 in Kelowna, B.C.



The Albert Zierath family when they arrived in Kelowna, B.C. in June, 1953. Back row, Elsie, Mother, Irma, Dad, Rosie. Front row, Ingrid, Herta, Siefried and Agnes.

They worked in an orchard and then bought a house in Kelowna. Albert worked in a boat-building shop and built a house on an acreage in Rutland, where the family raised chickens, green beans, and some fruit. Anna worked at the cannery, did some janitor work for the Underhill Clinic, and cared for a large family and garden.

In 1962 they moved to Alberta and for 6 months lived with their daughter Irma, then moved onto the Albert Schmidt farm (NW 31-48-1 W5) which they had bought. They raised hogs and had some cattle, and worked hard until their retirement in the fall of 1975. They now live in Thorsby. Albert had 3 sisters left; Elsa Duesterhoeft, and Lydia Slodinskie, still living in Russia, and Olga Steinke living in Edmonton in a Senior Citizens home.



A. Zierath family reunion, 1976.

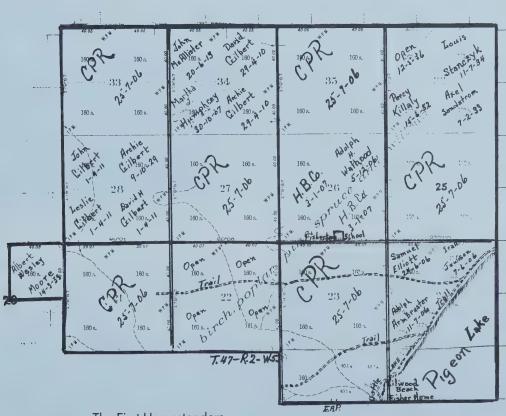
Anna had 1 sister and 2 brothers living in Russia; Daniel Rehband and Frank Rehband, and Amalia Berwald who lives with her daughter Gertrude. Albert and Anna have 7 daughters and one son. Their eldest daughter Irma, born in Russia, married Art Schmidt and they farm south of Thorsby. They have 3 sons and one daughter, Edgar, Tim, Garth and Louise. Elsa, born in Russia married Harry Dill, and lives in Richmond, B.C. They have 3 daughters, Anita, Greta and Rita. Rosie, born in Russia, married Otto Reihl and they live in Kamloops, B.C. Their children are Gary, Bonnie and Darren. Herta, born in Poland, married Eric Grohn and they farm south of Sunnybrook. Their children are Donna, Roy, Richard and the twins Arlin and Anna. Inge, born in Germany, married Horst Dueck of Toronto, Ontario. Inge and Horst now live in Tampa, Florida, U.S.A. Siegfried born in Germany married Donna Johnson of Albuquerque, New Mexico, U.S.A. They have one daughter Amber. Dr. Siegfried Zierath is now practicing chiropractic in Whitecourt, Alberta, Agnes, born in Germany, married Anton Kilik and they have two sons, Michael and Jon. They are farming south of Thorsby. Susan, the youngest, born in Kelowna, B.C. works in Edmonton and is a Beauty Therapist, specializing in skin care.

Tisherton (Mission Beach)



Fisherton School

School Pistrict To. 1859
July 10, 1908



The First Homesteaders and Grants to the C.P.R. and the Hudson Bay Company

The Information on this map courtesy of: Alberta Provincial Museum and Archives and Alberta Government Map Division

FISHERTON SCHOOL

as reported by Verna (Evenson) Scott

The Hudson's Bay donated the land for the school. The district was formed July 18, 1908, with W.W. Treleaven as secretary. Mr. Hudson was associated with construction of the building. At that time the school district was in the Columbia Municipality with its office in Red Deer. The school operated for a few years and was then closed for a time, probably in the years following World War I.

The school was reopened in 1927 for the children of Archie Gilbert. During World War II, due to the shortage of teachers, Correspondence Courses were taught by Miss Doris McAllister (daughter of Charles). In the spring of 1946, Miss Verna Evenson took over the classes for the year 1946-47. Families attending at that time were: Pankewicz, McAllister, Killaly, Schultheiss, Olson, Rinas, Dahl, Moore and Bauman. She recalls: "It was my first school, and I recall many happy and trying times: the school Year Book that the students made as a surprise for me, and which I still treasure; the long cold walks to school, the difficulty we had to keep the school (9 ft. ceilings) and the children warm, the difficulty to get things with ration coupons, the great times of cooperation in the community when we had a concert or dance or box-social. Folks came a long way to the entertainments. The music was usually donated and we were able to buy a radio for the school (it was stolen once but recovered). We also bought cups for the school and helped one needy family.

Mr. Thomas Wells, in 1932, and Mr. O'Neil were two other teachers that I recall. Miss Margaret Walker, 1928; Mrs. Clark, 1939-40; Mrs. Sweigert, 1940-42; Caroline Curcio, 1942-43.

We carried water for the school from the Schultheiss' place across the road, where I boarded for a year. Next term I was with Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pinkert (on the old Gilbert place) and later with Mr. and Mrs. Tony Pavlin who now live in Sunnybrook.

The building no longer functions as a school. The children are taken by bus to Sunnybrook or Thorsby schools. It is now the Fisherton Community Centre, and is the scene of card parties and other events.



Ed Knopp and most of the school children from the Fisherton Area.

Taken one mile east of the Moore place.



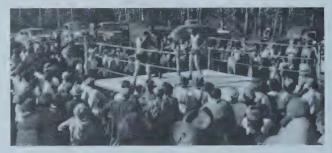
Fisherton School, 1927. Teacher was Miss Walker. L. to R.: Bill Frieman, Elsie Frieman, Robin Ayers, Luana Gilbert, Lucille Gilbert, Arthur Ayers, Pearl Gilbert, Irene Ladd, Ronald Ladd, Schiller Durant.



Verna Scott at Schultheiss, 1946.



This is the last teacher at Fisherton, Mrs. R. Watson.



Wrestling in front of Fisherton School in early 1950's.

THE EARLIEST INDUSTRIES

by E.B. Parker

The earliest industries in the area included in this history book were concentrated in the Pigeon Lake area and were largely concerned with furs, fish and timber.

The woods teemed with wild animals. They provided food, clothing and shelter for the native peoples, and induced the first white traders and trappers into the area.

Whitefish and other varieties of fish provided food both summer and winter. The fishing industry became quite important in the first half of the present century. Fishing is now mostly a form of sport for both summer and winter. Only a few engage in small scale commercial fishing.

The timber, that extended along the west and north shores of the Lake, included fine stands of spruce, poplar and birch. The forest provided the logs for the first cabins of trappers, traders and missionaries. A thriving lumber industry developed with the coming of the steam engine and sawmill. Numerous sawmills were in operation. One of the largest was the Rowley Lumber Co. at Mulhurst that operated "The Countess" a seventy-five foot long steam boat that towed logs across the lake to their mill at Mulhurst. One of the last mills in operation was that of Hobart Dowler at Mission Beach that ceased operations in the 1950's.

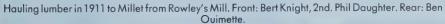
The Hudson's Bay Co. operated a trading post near what is now called Gilwood Beach at the west end of the Lake. An early operator of the post was Mr. Whitford. Furs were bought from Indians and trappers in exchange for necessities. The post seems to have opened about 1867 and operated for several years during the winter months.



Louis Ronalds with his sawmill.



Sawmill, cut trees and made lumber, to build house and barns. Eric Erickson and P. Mill. Conjuring Lake.







Wm. John Wood and Mr. Aubrey Ziener.



One of the engines 110 h.p. Herb Ohrn in foreground. Mr. Ohrn was one of the owners and the engineer.



Old way of making shingles. Spruce logs were laid end to end and pegged down, the cross sawn every 16 inches. A big plane was hitched to a team of horses and it literally ploughed off the shingle.

THE RUNDLE MISSION

by E.B.P.

On a hill overlooking the Lake, and just above the Mission spring, stands a building overshadowed by two thirty-foot pylons. It is known as the Rundle Mission. But the name "Rundle Mission" has a larger connotation. In its larger sense, it includes the work of Rev. Mr. Rundle and other missionaries who came to the region almost a century and a half ago to establish a much needed mission among the native tribes that inhabited the area.

In the 1840's Rev. Mr. Rundle, a Methodist minister from England, decided to establish a mission on the north shore of Pigeon Lake. In 1847, as he was unable to go there himself, he sent Benjamin Sinclair, a Cree lay preacher at Norway House, and his wife Margaret, to begin the mission. They built the first building at the lake and the next year grew the first garden in the area. Until very recently, a pile of clay a few feet south of the Spring, was said to be the remains of their fireplace. He built a few other buildings and began a church. But his efforts were brought to an end, when a massacre at a nearby lake left him without helpers. Sinclair decided to remove to Lake La Biche. An Indian trail led in that direction.

In the early 1860's, George MacDougall wintered at the Lake. He was followed in 1865 by John MacDougall who stayed for a number of years. The cellar of his home could still be seen a few years ago on the western slope of the bank leading down to the famous spring. It would be just outside the grounds on the east side of the present Rundle Mission. Gardening was successfully undertaken by the MacDougall family. In his absence to the Bow River Valley to establish a Mission at Morley among the Stoneys, his work was carried on by Rev. Peter Campbell. It might be noted that some MacDougall descendants of his brother David still ranch east of Morley area. The ruins of his first church could be seen standing on the north side of the old highway to Banff.

The mission work was never continued after this until in the early 1900's and after white settlers began to take over. The missionaries' work was finally remembered some sixty years later with the building of the Rundle Mission Church and pylons mentioned above, and in the establishment of the Pigeon Lake Youth Camps by the United Church of Canada. They are all in the fine log buildings constructed by Mr. Hobart Dowler and his crew. The pylons at the Church are memorials to those intrepid missionaries of the 19th Century. A memorial service to them is held each year in August at the Rundle Mission. And a majestic mountain overshadowing Banff, is a further memorial to Rev. Rundle and incidentally to his fellow missionaries.



MISSION BEACH

Sec. 30-47-1 -W5

by Bertha Smith Olson and E. Beatrice Parker

The southwest quarter of Section 30, only a fraction of the quarter on the Pigeon Lake shore, was homesteaded by John Lee on August 8, 1904. The southeast quarter, a still smaller fraction was homesteaded by Mrs. Paul Gaudin on December 7, 1908. This land was later acquired by H. Dowler and surveyed into lots for lake-shore dwellers.

The first lot sold, #70, was to Hugh and Shirley Mason and their seven children. Hugh was a civil servant. Another lot sold about the same time, was # 76, to Carl and Viola Kirkwood. Mr. Kirkwood was a shop instructor in Edmonton high schools.

During the thirties, lots were sold to: John Osterberg (now owned by Mrs. G. Christopherson); Wm. and Ruby Rinas, now owned by people from Drayton Valley; Alfred and Nannie Dahl (from Kulm district) and their seven sons and three daughters; Clarence and Bertha Olson and their son and daughter in 1939; also Bert and Judith Dahl (brother of Alfred).

It was long after World War II, before much further development took place but by 1978, all lots are sold and nearly all developed. In the 1950's Ross Christensen and family of Edmonton bought lot #87 and built a summer home which was bought in the late 60's by Mrs. E. Thompson, also of Edmonton; Lot #65 went to Mr. Clark of Edmonton and then to George and Wanda Broadbent of Warburg; Lot #77 to Eleanor Myer and Isabelle Whitney of Edmonton in the early 50's, which was later sold to Mr. and Mrs. Shonn, Edmonton high school teachers, and finally in the fall of 1978, to an Edmonton doctor and family. Eleanor and Isabelle bought the third lot to the north #80 and again by their own efforts built another house. Isabelle and her husband, L. Galloway now live in this house. Eleanor lives at the Coast.

Seidels located on the lot #78 immediately north of Shonns. Their daughter Jeanette and her husband Edward Roth, now occupy this house. The next lot north of the Seidel's property, #78, is owned by Mrs. Esther Neuman, an Edmonton teacher. She and her son and daughter built the house. The lot north of Isabelle's, #81, is owned and developed by Gerry and Isa Tege. Edmonton high school teachers. The northeast corner lot #82, is owned by Mr. Gabert, a civil servant, and his family from Edmonton. The northwest corner #83, is owned by the Lewis family, also of Edmonton. The next to the south, #84, is owned by Mrs. Ina Wallace, who is an Edmonton nurse. Ina and her girl friend have built a fine house by their own efforts. The next lot, #85, is owned by Darrel Olson, presently working with an oil-drilling company in the Phillipines. Number 86 was developed by Mrs. Bertha Olson, who sold it to Ronald and Yvonne McCreary of Edmonton. Number 87 has been nicely developed by Mrs. Thompson.

Lot # 70, the southwest corner facing on the lake has had a long and varied history. The Masons built a summer residence. Sometime during the thirties, a native rock fireplace was built for them by Mr. Kirkwood. It still stands in the end of what is now a boathouse. Masons sold the property to Miller Motors. It was later acquired by the Forsbergs of Glen Park. Sometime during that period, the Mason's buildings were dismantled and the material used to build the building now used as a boathouse and a small cottage near the front of the lot which now forms part of a larger home. Oscar Oberg was the next owner who sold it in the mid-fifties to Mrs. E.B. Parker, another Edmonton high school teacher, who refuses to part with it at any price. On the corner of the lot there stands a huge spruce tree - a memorial to Hugh Mason who planted it about 1931.

Continuing along the Lake Shore road, #71, first owned by Alan and Olga Dahl is now the summer home of Metro and Mary Hackman (operators of the Viking Smorgsboard in Edmonton); #72 by Gordon and Enid Mainwaring (Gordon is retired from the R.C.A.F. and they lived in Edmonton); #73 - 74 by Richard and Nora Hicks from the Edmonton area, who now "winter" in Yuma, Ariz.; #75 by Mr. and Mrs. Springsteel of Edmonton, who now make it their permanent summer home and "winter" in southern California; #76 is the summer home (formerly Kirkwood) of R.F. and Gwyneth Bailey, civil servant.

The next series of lots curves in a broad -U- shape around the Centre Block with extended arms to the west and east. The west arm has an all-year resident at its southeast corner, lot # 63, namely Mrs. G. Christopherson, a lady of pioneer parentage. Her son and daughter live in Edmonton. The other lots to the west of #63, are summer homes for John and Helen Paley, George and Wanda Broadbent of Warburg, L.J. Wagner of Millet, Ian Robertson of Edmonton.

The cresent that extends around centre block, is all taken for either summer homes or a few all-year homes. In the cresent are found the homes of: J.A. and Ivy Christian (Ivy is an Edmonton teacher). Philip and Jean Perry; Jean Snow (who lives in Texas); Ray and Marg. Bannister; W.R. and Muriel Anderson. Jack and Eva Waters: Julian Yanchuk, Adloph Yanchuk, Andrew Antoniuk, Chester Bindon, Frank and Marion Smyth, Cleave Breadner, Patrick Burns, J.B. Taylor, R.E. and Lavina Calbert, Robert and Mrs. Gray, John and Linda Chalmers, S.P. and Elaine Lewis, George and Mrs. Killaly, Mrs. D. Pulsom, Jack Stonell, Ken and Mrs. Trudgeon, Paul and Nora Melhus, Marian Scragg and Shirley Nicholson, A. and Dorothy Toole, Tkach, Carriere, A., Mr. and Mrs. L.W. Ross, Dramer, S. Seidel, Ben Anast, Alex. Procinsky, Eric Kuchner, Allan and Doreen King, Edward E. Buchanan, Gordon and Evelyn Roswell, John W. and Elaine M. Low, Harry Steilo, Sylvia, Effie C. and James E. Dickson, Richard L. Lamoureus, Lorne Kaminiski, J.E. White, Mrs. Alison (S.J.) Dyer, Frederick W. Keeler, George G. Weir, Cecil C. and

Marjorie Jones, G.E.; Olive F. (Scragg, E.S.) Kitchen, William Opqenorth, Mrs. Laverne Buker, Wm. H. and Norma E. Kinsman, Sarah K. Bell.

The east arm of Mission Beach had the Mission Store at its south-west corner for a number of years. It was operated in turn by the Waldemar Bathelts, Grays, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Krause and lastly by the Wesley Seidels. It has now been closed and dismantled except for a small lunch stand which is not operated. The lots to the east are all occupied by summer residences.

There are no un-owned lots. A Provincial Park occupies the narrow beach area. The shore line is beautiful in summer with trees, piers and fine boats. There is a Mission Beach Ratepayers Association that keeps a cautious eye on the development of the area. The Association holds meetings as needed and in autumn an outdoor potluck supper and sports activities for the local residents.

FRED AND LENA ALLEN FAMILY

by their daughter Mary Allen Quick

Fred Allen was born in Tring, Hertfordshire, England in 1867. His parents moved to the United States when he was a year old. They settled in Kansas where his father Fred Allen Sr. bought land from the Union Pacific Railway. After living there for awhile they moved to Enid, Oklahoma where he homesteaded.

In 1901 Fred Jr. (my father) came to Canada and stayed for awhile with a cousin, looking for some land. He found some near Bonnie Glen and then returned to Kansas, U.S.A.

In 1905 he came back to Canada with his brother Albert. They came on an immigration train to Wetaskiwin. Albert took the SE quarter of the same section Fred had.

Fred farmed his land until 1912 when he married Lena J. Macaulay. They then moved to Edmonton where he worked for John Walter's Mill. He also worked cutting ties at Rocky Mountain House for the C.P.R.

After he left that job he worked at the Edmonton Power Plant as a steam engineer until he retired about 1936. His wife Lena died in 1928. After his retirement he moved to a farm owned by Mary Macaulay, south of Thorsby and raised sheep for about 5 years. In 1941 he bought an acreage on Pigeon Lake, where Rundle's Mission now stands. He lived there until his death in 1952. His son Joe lived there together with him for several years.

Fred and his brother Albert both played violins and with Merle Smith accompanying them on guitar, they played for many dances and parties around the countryside.

My parents had 5 children, Bill (who is now deceased), myself, Jean, Fred and Joe.

I married Merle Quick (Buster, as he was known). I have 2 sons Allen and Travis. Buster died in Jan. 1976 and I now live in Breton. We used to live at Mission Beach.

Jean, my sister, married Weldon Snow, now of Fort Worth, Texas. Her children are, Lonnie, Mary Elaine and Shauna (in England).

Fred married Helen Swinck and their children are, Charlotte and Joe. Joe married Arlyce Olson and they have 2 children, Arlie and Dalyce.

My grandparents were Daniel and Mary Macaulay who moved to the SE 10-48-1 W5 in 1885 and homesteaded there. He ran the Week Creek post office there.

They are both buried in the Fisherton Cemetery behind the Rundle Mission. In January 1978 one of their granddaughters, Eleanor Mabel Macaulay Wickstrom was buried near them and in January 1979 Daniel's daughter Miss Margaret Annie Macaulay aged 78 was buried there.

HOBART & SARAH ANNE DOWLER

by E.B.P. from an interview with Mrs. Dowler and memories of Mr. Dowler.

Hobart Dowler was born in Huntington, Que. of Irish grandparents. After living in Quebec for a time, he came to Wetaskiwin and took up farming for a number of years.

Sarah Anne Mulligan and her sister Ruth were born at Newbury, Ont. of an English mother and an Irish father, George Mulligan. George came to the area now known as Mulhurst in 1902 and was one of the first settlers. His homestead was just east of present day Mulhurst where there is still a stand of large trees. The name of the town is derived from the surname "Mulligan". He built a log house for his family. Sarah and the other members of the family joined him. Sarah soon after went to Calgary to finish her education, then later returned home to help care for the family due to her mother's ill health. Mr. Mulligan helped organize the Springhill school that stood on the hill just north of the village.

Sarah married Hobart Dowler. They had three children: William, Donald and Betty Anne. Both Hobart and Bill are now deceased and are at rest in the historic Fisherton Cemetery. Sarah still occupies their home as much as possible. Betty was a wireless operator in the Forces during W.W. II. After the war she married a member of the Forces, Ernest Holmgren, who passed away in October, 1978.

In 1950 the Dowlers bought the land formerly occupied by the first Mission to Pigeon Lake. A few trees, planted by the early missionaries, still stand to mark the spot. Dowlers built a charming log home below the ridge of the Pigeon Hills and quite near the Mission spring. Across the lawn and former Mission site, there is a magnificent view of the Lake to the south.

Mr. Dowler operated a sawmill that produced lumber for sale. He was a splendid builder of log buildings. He trained local boys, for example the Dahl boys, in the art of assembling log buildings with native stone bases and fireplaces. Through his leadership and expertise the splendid accomodations at the Pigeon Lake Youth Centre (Maskapetoon) and the new Rundle Mission Church were built.

Mr. Dowler and his crew were called far afield to build. He was responsible for the re-building of Fort MacLeod and work on Fort Calgary, as well as some construction in the Jasper area. His work stands as a monument to a good neighbour and a community-minded person. He also built the Pioneers and Oldtimers' Log Cabin in Edmonton that overlooks the river and is a very popular hall for holding weddings, anniversaries and other events in.

CHARLES FREIMAN FAMILY

by Margaret Sauve

In 1920 Dad bought the S.E. 25-47-2 W5, located in the Fisher Home district. It was bought as timber land from the C.P.R. At this time he was farming near Wetaskiwin. He loved the country life and his great desire was to have a saw-mill, so he gave up farming later on and moved west. It was to be a great challenge for him as he soon found out, after he had been farming a few years. He and Mother had three children: a son, William and two daughters, Elsie and Margaret.

His first job after buying the timber land, was to build camps to house the cook and bunk-houses for his men. Now his time was spent between his mill and where we were still residing at Wetaskiwin, where Mother and the children stayed, as William and Elsie were in school and there was no school available at Fisher Home. Roads were just trails and it was very common to have to clear trees from the trail if the wind blew them over while he would be away.

Later the farm was sold, and in about 1925, Mother came out to be with Dad, to cook for his men. He now had his mill in operation. Two of the children stayed behind with grandparents, as the school at Fisherton was closed. This they did, coming back and forth until about 1928 when Dad stopped sawing operations to move into Edmonton, where his children could continue higher education at Scona High and Queen Alex in Strathcona. Here he carried on his trucking business and built a new house, where we lived from 1928-1930.

At this time came the depression and in the spring when school was out, the folks decided to sell their house and move to Fisher Home permanently. Dad had built a new cabin near the road and creek as the first one had been destroyed by fire along with much timber and bush. These were to be very challenging years with fires, many set-backs which he



The first log cabin at Fisher Home in 1920. L. to R. Margaret, Elsié, Mrs. Freiman, Bill and C. Freiman.



Charles Freiman family, Elsie, Willie and Margaret on truck Charles hauled lumber with in 1932.

encountered, and no modern conveniences. Our cabin was heated with wood and lights were kerosene lamps. The creek which we were close to, had fish in abundance, so part of the food supply consisted of fish, fresh and smoked.

When the fall of 1930 came, Miss Ida Martell taught Fisherton School. My brother and sister had had much schooling by now, but it was to be my first and it took all the children the Fisherton district had for the school to open. At that time the families there were ourselves, Ladds and Gilberts. About 7 pupils were needed to hire a teacher. Ida Martell was followed by Mrs. Lake, T. Wells, E. Zimmerman, L. Surgart, to mention a few of the early teachers. We had 1½ miles to walk. Buses were unheard of in those days, or snow plowing, so we just made the best of the roads we had. Many times in winter, our lunches would be frozen so they were thawed out on a big coal and wood stove.

As time passed, times got a bit better. We always had people who couldn't pay cash for lumber, so they would bring Dad meat and vegetables in trade, which was OK as it helped us for food. There was no refrigeration in those days, so ice was put up for summer use.

More families were moving into the district in the early 1930's. W.J. Woods came to take over the store and post office duties. He was a great lover of music and played the violin well. As my brother Willie was now grown up and also played the violin, they used to get together and with the addition of another fellow

who had moved into the district, Axel Sandstrom, they formed a small orchestra. They used to play for dances and some community gatherings at the Fisherton School. These were enjoyed by everyone, as they loved to get together and this was our only source of entertainment. As the district grew, a girls' ball team was formed and my sister played in it. Dad would take the truck and we would go to different places for a good day of fun.

Some very bad fires were encountered. Dad lost a lot of lumber and also his mill. The timber and all the slashings, were dry, so it was very hard to control once a fire got started. As Willie got older, he was of great help to Dad. Dad could now do more trucking of his own lumber to Edmonton, as someone was left at the

mill to carry on while he would be away.

Time passed and the one teacher, T. Wells had married. His wife was a very talented piano teacher. A minister was now in the Morrowdale district, where we went for church services. Pearl Oppegaard and myself would go to Mrs. Wells to practise for the choir on Sundays. The T. Wells had built a house across from Fisherton Store.

In about 1933, Dad built a new frame house in the extreme S.E. corner of the land, which they lived in until their retirement. Shortly after, Elsie married as did Willie, so I being much younger was alone with Mother and Dad for several years. Times were getting better now. Dad had broke and cleared some of this timber land and was back to farming, as saw-mill timber was diminishing. Roads were being built and it was opening up more all the time. At this time they used to commercial fish in winter, which gave them the finances to carry on.

About 1935, Dad was taken ill and wasn't able to work for quite a spell. When he recovered, he kept on farming and this he did until his health forced him to

retire and sell the farm.

In 1965, Mother and Dad celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. It was a very happy occasion with friends and family on the home place which they had grown to love as the years passed and they got to know more people. In 1966, ill health forced Dad to retire and move into town where he could have doctor's care, so they had to sell the farm. It was sold to Dr. G. Hutchinson, who sold the house and built himself a new log cabin, where they still reside.

Dad's health deteriorated very fast and his last years were spent in the hospital on December, 25th, 1968, he passed away. My mother still lives in her own home in Wetaskiwin and enjoys good health although she is now 83 years old.

Elsie is married to Stanley Erickson and resides in

Edmonton, and has 1 daughter, Jeanette.

William married Zeta Marriet and resides in Spokane, Washington. He had 3 daughters, Goldie, Rosella and Patricia and 1 son, Robert.

Margaret married W. Sauve and has two daughters, Marilyn and Irene and one son, Gerald.

W. Sauve bought grain for the Alberta Wheat

Pool, his first grain point being Athabasca, then Thorsby and Gwynne, where he was forced to retire in 1971.



Mrs. Freiman, Charles Freiman, Elsie Margaret and Elsie's daughter

ARCHIE GILBERT

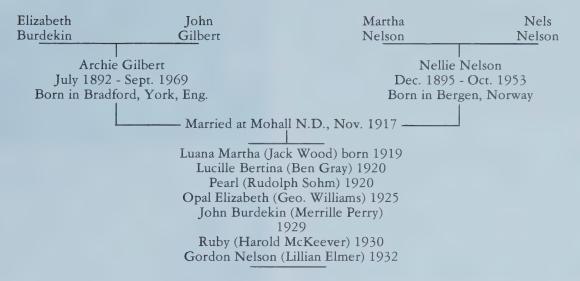
Luana Gilbert Wood loaned a copy of her father's autobiography to the Historic Society. The following article consists of excerpts and summaries from that autobiography selected and edited by E. Beatrice Parker of the editorial committee.

Archie Gilbert was born July 28, 1892, in Bradford, Yorkshire, England. At the age of 15 he found himself in a steward's uniform on a Cunard ship bound for Boston. He speaks of it as "a tough experience for I was soon jolted from a boy to the tough reality of life . . . (but) I really enjoyed it." He made "three trips to New York from Liverpool." He next went to Newcastle to work on the Mauretania on her maiden voyage via Liverpool to New York. He speaks of it as "a great adventure that I would not have missed - why I did not continue with it is a little vague now."

In the spring of 1908 he became a "Groomsfootman" to a Mr. Oxley of Leeds. He speaks of it as a "Delux" job on a gorgeous estate. The stables were of stone and better finished inside than many homes. The horses were of the finest: hunters for fox hunting, harness horses, saddle horses, and glittering coaches and vehicles. He says that when acting as footman that he "wore a swanky uniform and silk top hat", and that "the estate was a fabulous place - resembling somewhat Stanley Park, just as large - wide paddocksdriveways, fountains, large gardens and flower beds and Glass Conservatory". Each year in August they left for Scotland for a month, where Mr. Oxley rented the estate of the Earl of Galoway.

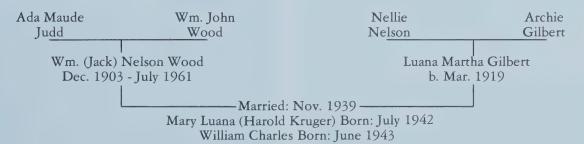
ARCHIE AND NELLIE GILBERT

FAMILY TREE



WM. (JACK) NELSON AND LUANA (GILBERT) WOOD

FAMILY TREE



During the Scottish holiday he was able to take a trip to Belfast; to attend the Races at Ayr and visit the birthplace of Robert Burns. During this period his two brothers had gone to Canada and in 1910 he decided to join them.

He remarks that at this time there was a terrific propaganda drive sweeping England to promote emigration to Canada. "'Go West Young Man'; lectures, posters, bill boards just plastered everywhere about all the "Gold" in Canada" and "So I left my swell job like a stupid nut and took off for Canada. Oh Boy."

He came to Halifax on a boat "loaded to the gills with enthusiastic emigrants" going to Canada to make their fortune. His older brother, David, was working at Fort William in a foundry. The two decided to go to Calgary to join the other brother Reggie. Archie worked for a few months in Calgary including satisfactory employment at the C.P.R. freightsheds which later he regretted leaving.

The three brothers finally went to Wetaskiwin and thence to Pigeon Lake, via Burnt Lake and Ma-Me-O

Beach. They travelled with the mail carrier who drove a team of horses and a democrat. They then returned to Wetaskiwin where they secured necessary gear and hired a wagon and horses and proceeded to Pigeon Lake and Fisher Home. They found some land on which they filed: SE 34-47-2-W5. Archie describes the area thus: "The roads were just openings in the bush - lots of mud-holes. Some places were so narrow there were holes chopped out of the trees to allow the hubs of wagon wheels to slip on through." Their team was balky and often when mired in a mud hole they had to unload their gear, carry it to dry ground and pry the wagon out of the hole and reload it.

When they finally arrived at what they thought was their homestead, they unloaded the wagon and set up a tent. He adds, "and the team turned around and left us there in the jungle. I watched the team vanish down the trail - and that was the start of our homesteading—we settled down to make our first million. There was a small store down by the lake operated by Mr. Treleavan and family and everything had to be carried on your back no matter what it was."

A bush fire caused them to move their gear and tent on their backs to a safer location which happened to be on Archie's homestead. They cut logs and built a cabin but had difficulty with a leaky roof. Once when out picking wild strawberries, which were plentiful, Archie found himself sharing the patch with a young black bear. Both were frightened and took off in opposite directions. At another time he and a neighbor encountered a huge black bear in a hayfield. The men had a team and hayrack - the old shaggy bear looked them over and then ambled off.

To their consternation they learned that their parents were coming from England to join them in August, 1910, John and Elizabeth, with children Nora and Leslie. The threee brothers decided that Archie would escort the parents to the homestead and that David and Reggie "would stay in Calgary or vicinity to work to get some needed funds." "Mother had brought her piano along and all the family heirlooms. It was really sad now that I look back." They had a difficult trip to the homestead, mud holes, balky horses, a larger load and more passengers". It took two days with a stop over with some "kind hearted people willing to take you in and give you accommodation." "During that winter David and the folks wintered in a house belonging to Adolf Armbruster on land that is now Zeiner Municpal Park". All the men of the family eventually filed on homesteads, but only Archie and his father stayed withthe land and finally obtained titles to their homesteads in 1915. Homesteaders resided on the land for six months and usually worked for the remainder of the year to obtain some cash for necessities and improvements on the land.

He spent several years working in various places, a winter in the Crowsnest Pass back in the mountains in a logging camp but spent part of that winter in hospital with a hand slashed by an axe. Then to Fernie for dental work. Another winter was spent at Poplar Creek near Buck Lake, cutting logs to be floated down the North Saskatchewan to be cut into lumber at Walter's Flats in Edmonton.

Another winter was spent in the High River area, where he worked at various famous ranches, among them being: the George Lane "Bar Q", and one that later became the Duke of Windsor ranch. About this time, he took in the first Calgary Stampede, organized by Guy Weadick.

His brother David had gone to Winnipeg and when war broke out in 1914, Reggie joined the forces and was killed in action in 1917.

In the fall of 1917 he met Miss Nellie Nelson. Archie says: "She could not speak English - but that did not cut any ice - we got along wonderfully." They were married in St. Paul, N.D. on November 17, 1917. That winter he worked at the Northern Railway shops.

When the war ended, November 11, 1918, they decided to return to Pigeon Lake. He had a fine stand of timber on his homestead but the post-war



Archie Gilbert Family. First home at Pigeon Lake near Fisher Home, 1921.



Luana (Gilbert) and Jack Wood, 1947.

depression made it impossible to sell the timber or lumber. However he set up his own sawmill in 1919-20 and continued cutting and selling lumber for the next twenty years. He sold the outfit and joined the army in August, 1940. It had been twenty years of hard work - ten hour days, ten men for Nelliewith the aid of a girl, to cook for and also several lumber haulers, hours seven to six, repairs and maintenance work in evenings and on Sundays. They were hardly ever shut down due to a breakdown. The men's wages were \$4.00 per day and board. Archie remarks "when I look back now it is hard to realize how Nellie did all that cooking and looked after the family and them going to school and needing lunches packed and getting them dressed and off - I'll never know". He himself was extremely busy co-ordinating the operations of the mill, purchasing supplies, selling and delivering lumber, bookkeeping to do at night and other duties. He adds: "We must have been supermen in those days".

He tells of an experience that occurred when he was on the way to a Council meeting at Battle Lake. To save time he cut across Pigeon Lake toward Ma-Me-O Beach. The car sank through the ice and he escaped by jumping onto cakes of ice. It was -25 degrees F. He finally reached Rudolph Sohm's cabin. Rudolph started to take him home but his old car broke down so Archie had to walk the remainder of the way. In spring they pulled the car out and after it dried out it was soon running again.

The only market for lumber was in Leduc which was difficult to reach due to lack of passable roads and trucks. Small loads were taken in summer to Mulhurst.

This was repeated several times until they had a pile large enough for a load. Mulhurst was at the end of a good road. Sometimes the wagon became bogged down, the whole load would have to be unloaded and carried across to the wagon after it was gotten out of the hole. They carried "a grub box and blankets and when night came on - you just tied up and that was it for the night". A trip from Mulhurst to Leduc took three days.

During these years he moved his mill to other places: Conjuring Lake, Bonnie Glen, Battle Lake and Cunningham's place. When they returned to the farm, they took the steam engine across on the ice and "came ashore close to where Fisher Home is now - it was not there then."

He remarks: "During those years - there was no such thing as doctors or drug stores any nearer than Leduc or Wetaskiwin, so you just had to forget about being sick." There was a nurse at Yeoford. There were only narrow trails through the bush. One had to go on horseback to get her and lead her horse so that she would not be lost. Archie made more than one trip for her "in the middle of a dark stormy night." One baby, Opal, arrived while he was gone. When he and the nurse came in, Archie says of Opal, she "was staring at us with wide open eyes - I could swear she was grinning at us."

About 1930, he bought a small piece of land near the lake and built "Pop-Inn."

One Christmas day, while their own dinner was cooking, Archie had the urge to go to see neighbors who lived about four miles away - they were an old man and his son. Gilberts packed a couple of the six chickens, that Nellie was cooking and some other food. Let Archie continue: I went on horseback, no saddle. It was bitter cold. When I arrived I found the old man, who was quite feeble, on his knees by the table praying for food. I helped him struggle to his feet and laid the food on the table - and when he saw it he looked upward and said, 'Thank you, God. I knew you would answer my prayer.' I do not think the old man even saw me. I shuffled out - away home - my Xmas dinner never tasted so good." He adds that his father always seemed to be at the barn when Santa arrived and never had the chance to meet him.

During the depression of the 1930's, that followed the stock market crash of October 1929, Archie says that "it seemed that the whole wide world was on relief but that he and his family avoided relief." During the 1920-40 period he held a number of public offices. "Secretary of Fisherton school, the chairman, Reeve and councillor in municipal affairs, road foreman, fire guardian, Commissioner of Oaths."

Prices in the 1930's were at an all-time low. Archie give the following examples: eggs 5¢ a dozen, and wheat 10¢ a bushel. Some supplies were obtained by barter - he traded lumber for groceries at Westerose on one occasion. A good garden kept hunger from the door. "Clothing had to be made over and over again. We rustled up our own wool, washed and carded it and

then spun it into wool on a spinning device I made and connected to the sewing machine. Socks and mittens were then knitted."

When he enlisted in 1940, he was happy to again receive a regular pay cheque. He joined the Royal Canadian Engineeers and was first posted to Calgary, while the family remained on the farm. He was also at Petawawa, Ont. At a later time he was posted to Vancouver. They hired Willie Rinas and his truck to move the family to Calgary and then took the train to Vancouver. He had to report to Victoria, then to Little Mountain Barracks. His duties were varied and he worked "all up and down the coast installing steam heat, plumbing and water". Later he was in charge of maintenance at C.W.A.C. barracks in Vancouver, until the end of the war. Members of the family were busy: Opal in the C.W.A.C. went overseas to England and Holland; Pearl and Lucille in "Boeing"; John apprenticed in a machine trade; Ruby in a box factory and Gordon in school, Luana married to Jack Wood.

We returned to Pigeon Lake except for Opal and Pearl who were married at the coast and in their own homes. They stayed at the lake until 1951 when Archie went to Edmontn and became a plumber with his old Regiment (R.C.E.). Ruby was married and living in Edmonton, Pearl and her husband now lived in Wembley, John and Gordon were working at their trades. Archie stayed with the R.C.E. until 1952. He then went to live in west Edmonton and worked on the crew installing water works, sewer and gas.

In this period he had the Pop-Inn acreage subdivided and sold lots on the Lake front - it was known as "Gilwood." This area had been the site of the Hudson's Bay Post, Pigeon Lake and is shown on their maps for 1869-72. The area was later named "Zeiner's Park".

While living in west Edmonton, Nellie passed away and sometime later Archie remarried.

To Archie's memoirs, his daughter Luana adds the following: Around 1930, they built a two-story house from lumber sawn in their own mill. Mr. M. Canfield from near Thorsby was one of the carpenters.

The seven children all attended Fisherton School. At first they walked and then later drove a horse and buggy. Missionaries sometimes held services in the school. Archie was the first Sec. Treas.

There was a store at Fisher Home owned by W.J.



Fisher Home Store, 1940-41, operated by the Wood Family. L. to R. Wm. John Wood, a friend Pearl Oppegaard, Mrs. Ada Wood, Stanley Wood, son of Wm. and Ada.

Wood, where a number of different supplies could be bought. It was three miles from home. For pastime we visited our neighbors, went on picnics and attended Xmas concerts at local schools. For reading material we had: "The Free Press", "The Family Herald", "Farm and Ranch Review", the local paper and Eaton's Catalogue.

REFLECTIONS OF A COUNTRY STORE

Told by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hanas and submitted by Mrs. Dave Hanas

FISHER HOME GENERAL STORE

In 1946, W.J. Wood sold Fisher Home General Store to Steve Pankewicz and his partner, Walter Hanas, who was married to Steve's daughter (Marie).

At this time the merchandise in the store was enlarged to include hardware, clothing, groceries, and gas. The groceries stocked were necessities such as sugar, coffee, tea, flour and bread. There was no demand in this area for selling milk! Besides stores at this time could not handle any items requiring refrigeration. The only means of refrigeration was an ice-house constructed in their backyard. This had to be filled every winter with ice off the lake for the summer use. Most of the hardware goods, such as bolts, chains, and saws were ordered on request and the store went all out to provide this service.



Group of people in front of Post Master John Lee's house. Building at left is the Fisher Home, Post Office. About 1910.



Corporal Hanas at his command post on overseas duty.

Being the only store in the community, it was the sole means of providing supplies for the patrons. The store, however, was continually hampered by poor road conditions. Whenever road conditions allowed, the store operator (Walter Hanas) used his truck. This chance however, was seldom granted. More often horse team and sled were used in the winter while team and wagon were used in the summer. Many times as many as a dozen men would help out. They would travel along with the truck, shovelling most of the way, and provide weight for the back. The patrons themselves would arrive by dog-team, skiis, on foot or whichever way they could get through.

At that time patrons were also a lifeline. For sickness, supplies, or mail, co-operation was the spirit of the times. No one could be independent. Friendliness and helpfulness were the order of the day.

Since then, many changes have occurred. Most of the oldtimers have passed on. Many new folks now reside in the area. Weekend cabin dwellers occupy most of Pigeon Lake shores. When Zeiners Park originated in 1956, a great influx of people arrived. Store business boomed and supply needs changed. To be able to supply more groceries, clothing and hardware goods were now cut back.

At present, Walter and Marie Hanas still are operating the Fisher Home General Store. They have resided at this location for 32 years. During this time they raised a family of 4 children: Bill, Dave, Dale, and



In front of Fisher Home Store in 1948. Snow ploughing the road. Harold McHeener, Walter Hanas, Johnny MacAllister, John Bauman



1929 Pontiac Rumble with seat owned by Walter Hanas.



Fleet of boats at Fisher Home.

Cindy. The family all live in the general area.

A somewhat different atmosphere prevails as Zeiners Park alone attracts 10,000 people annually. So many patrons now are strangers but they still welcome the opportunity to reminisce about the early days, and observe the characteristics of a country store. Store patrons still remark that the old-fashioned hospitality remains the same.

FISHER HOME POST OFFICE

Back in 1946 (when mail strikes were unheard of) the Fisher Home Post Office was operating with 43 patrons.

There were no regular hours of operation and people came at any suitable hour, some as late as 10:00 P.M. The mail arrived on Mondays and Fridays. Seldom did anyone come just for the mail as groceries were bought and hospitality was shared. Mr. W.N. (Jack) Wood was the mailman travelling from Fisher Home, Fern Creek, to Sunnybrook and back. By team, the trip of 32 miles could take as long as 10 hours.

The mail was kept in a wooden shelf in the store and was handed out by the post-mistress, Mrs. Marie Hanas.

The post-office was in existence for 23 years until it was closed in July, 1969. The mail then changed to rural route or box numbers in nearby towns. At the time of closing, Marie received a token of recognition for her continuous years of service.

1946 POST OFFICE PATRONS

1) Adolph Armbuster

2) Archie and Nellie Gilbert

3) Thomas and Maybell Wills

4) William and Ada Wood

5) Johnny and Anna Leithuric
6) Oscar and Pauline Oppered

6) Oscar and Pauline Oppegaard

7) Forrest and Nellie Quick

8) George and Wife Hearn9) Oscar and Wife Oberg

10) Johnny and Lotty Osterberg

11) William (Jack) and Luana Wood

12) Steve and Jennie Pankewicz

13) Kurt and Wife Stoehr

14) Axel Sandstrom

15) Percy and Lilly Killaly

16) Alfred and Nanny Dahl

17) Bert and Judith Dahl18) Charlie and Wife Free

18) Charlie and Wife Freiman19) Johnny and Emma McAllister

20) Clarence and Bertha Olson

21) Albert and Lois Moore

22) Meril and Mary Quick

23) Willie and Ruby Rinas

24) Adolph Prelip

25) Rudolph and Pearl Sohm

26) Simon Labutis

27) Peter and Wife Mackrenas

28) Walter (Audie) and Carol Fitzgerald

29) Harold and Ruby McKeever

30) William and Evelyn Gitzel

31) Art Gent

32) William Teigky

33) John Thatuch

34) Phill Mickky35) Everett and Sarah Dennis

36) Jack and Hazel Dennis

37) Wilferd Hasting38) Ernest Schmidt

39) Oliver and Goldie Christopherson

40) Bill Bauman

41) John and Lilly Bauman

42) Ed Bauman

43) Joe and Suzie Jurykovsky

44) Bertha Schulthiess

45) School teacher Verna Evanson

46) Mr. and Mrs. Pinkard

47) Mr. and Mrs. W. Hanas

ARMY DAYS

On Dec., 2, 1942, Walter Hanas enlisted in the Army in Edmonton. He joined the Third Battalion of the Edmonton Fusiliers. Walter took his basic training in Edmonton and later was transferred to Calgary for advanced training.

Walter received his promotion as Lance Corporal on Oct. 16, 1944, and in Dec. of the same year received his Corporal Stripes. On Jan. 7, 1945 he was sent overseas where he served throughout Europe. In March, 1946 he received his discharge and returned home.

THE STORY OF DR. GERALD AND MRS. MIRIAM HUTCHINSON

by Mrs. Hutchinson

We the Hutchinsons, Gerald, Miriam (Mim), Kenneth and Elizabeth moved from Toronto into the United Church manse at Telfordville on August 12, 1949. Gerry was the sixth child of Lew and Barbara Hutchinson of Duhamel and was raised on the farm in that area. Miriam was the fourth child of Daniel and Maud Horn of Red Deer. After Gerald and Miriam's marriage. Gerry worked as General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement of Canada, living in Toronto for six years.



Dr. and Mrs. G.M. Hutchison and son Rob.

Gerry came to "the valley" for the first time on the Annual Picnic day and was impressed with the natural beauty of the area and especially the site of the manse. A month later when we moved in we were welcomed with warm hospitality by the community and especially the Neufelds and Joblinskis, our nearest neighbours.

Although the MacTavishes had been living in the manse until the spring of that year, the building was empty except for a bed donated by Mrs. Grant and a dining room table. The stove had been moved out-of-doors because the top was broken, so for a short time it was a camping situation. The upstairs was unfinished.

Church policy at that time required that a furnished manse be provided so the church board gave \$300.00 for furniture and furnishings. We had our own bed, crib, bedding and linens, dishes, piano, etc. so Gerry and Albert Van Alstyne went shopping in the secondhand stores in Edmonton, and did very well, returning the stove, heater, washing machine, sofa, gas lamps, a pair of skis, pots and pans and a variety of small items. They bought enough very heavy good quality linoleum for kitchen and living room - all for \$300.00. We became accustomed to living without electricity and drawing water from the well by bucket. Gerry's farming background helped immeasurably,



Perley Stewart Bell and the Hutchinson family, 1962.

and of course none of our neighbours had electricity or running water.

The first fall we were there we did a lot of clearing; for an ample garden, for lawns at the back and for playing space. The trees were large and required care in felling. We also pulled a shed up to the north door to give protection from wind and to provide space for wood and coal.

Many small incidents stand out in remembering those early years - picnics at the lake, tenting holidays, the joy of Rob coming into our home in 1951, canoeing and skating on the Strawberry Creek, the house full of people on a wintery night to watch N.F.B. films, visits of friends and relatives - so many happy memories and some sad ones also.

Sunday services were far flung and numerous. At first Gerry conducted services in Thorsby, Warburg, Telfordville, Strawberry, Genesee, Sunnybrook and Capbillion, and supervised church work in Breton. This changed over the years to include Breton and Carnwood and to draw together some of the others. Whenever services were dicontinued for whatever reason there was a sense of loss and sadness.

In 1951 a basement was put under the manse. This meant a tedious job of excavating without moving the house. The house was raised by jacks in preparation for pouring concrete. However the weather became very wintery with snow and wind and continued cold so the job was delayed until very late in the year so the floors were cold until the building could be lowered on to its new foundation. A few years later the manse was enlarged and a furnace installed and still later electricity came and plumbing was installed.



Winter view of the Telfordville United Church manse.

All of the family joined in and enjoyed community affairs. We were most appreciative of the friendly way in which the "500" players accepted children into their games whenever the children felt that they wanted to learn the game and join the adults.

Ken started school in Thorsby. It was the first year the children from Telfordville were bused into town instead of walking to Avon Moor school. Ed Alton was the bus driver and continued to be for Beth and Rob also. Good friends were made on the bus and sometimes fantastic gossip came from that same bus.

Gerry's memories include starting and maintaining a sample grain plot in the churchyard in conjunction with Jim Gylander the District Agriculturist; he produced the National Film Board programs in county schools over a wide area with the aid of a mobile - very heavy - generator; he helped with the renovation of the churches in Thorsby and Breton and the building of new ones in Warburg and Telfordville; the increasing care and beautification of cemeteries; the founding of Rundle's Mission and most of all, people sharing their faith in congregations, sharing their energy and skills in community projects, and sharing their love in weddings, funerals and friendly association.

We saw communities transformed by new modern farm homes, extended telephone service, introduction of power lines, improvement of roads, better schools and bus routes and growth of villages.

In 1967 the United Church asked Gerry if he would assume the position of Executive Secretary for the Alberta conference which was a new position at that time. Gerry accepted so he resigned from the local appointment and, after the family went to Expo., we moved to Calgary for this three year appointment. It turned out to be six years and the last three years were centered in Edmonton. In 1967 we also purchased the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Frieman at Pigeon Lake so in 1973 we moved here and Gerry became the Director of Rundle's Mission which he had helped found.

The Mission is a retreat and meeting place for the use of church and other groups and over the years has steadily increased in use all year round. Gerry retired from the ministry in 1979 but has many jobs ahead of him including historical research and maybe even politics.

HISTORY OF ONE OF THE MOORE FAMILY:

WESLEY AND HIS WIFE LOIS

by Mrs. Lois Moore

My husband's family came to Alberta in January 1906, from the Manitoulin Island in Ontario. They brought two boxcar loads of their possessions. The family came by passenger train to Didsbury, with 8 children. They rented a place to live in, and 2 more were born there before they moved to a homestead and pre-emption, just north of Rose Lynn. The youngest girl was born there in 1911. As the years went by, other settlers found the older ones of the family in demand for their musical ability. By the time I met them, they were playing at many dances. That was early in 1922.

I had come out to be with my sister, Carrie Ward. Her husband had a homestead in the Parr area, south of Hanna. I landed there the last day of 1921, with my sister's brother-in-law, who had been back to Minnesota for a holiday. I was past the age of 18, but I had the first experience of being turned over out of the cutter into a huge snowbank - even tho' I'd seen lots of snow in Minnesota, but not so hard packed. The livery man who drove us was very apologetic, as the foot warmer was of no use after the spill. That evening I was taken to a New Year's eve dance at a school near my sister's place. That's where I met my future husband. Wesley. There were three Moore boys and their sister, they played violin, guitar, banjo and organ. Even tho' I had never been allowed to go to dances, as I had a very strict Methodist mother, I soon learned to dance. I had a job, teaching at Cliffdale School, south of my sister's place. I finished out that term and the next.

Then in 1923, I married Wesley, at Alsask, Sask., in the United Church manse. Wes had a job of summer-fallowing a half section for a Calgary stock buyer who had this land near Sibbald, Alta. in a Jewish Colony. His father had passed away in the winter of 1918, when the flu was so prevalent. So, West rented the home place. We lived in a trailer. Our eldest daughter was born the next year. We lost an infant son in the spring of 1926, and also an infant daughter in the spring of 1929. That year in July we had our crop hailed twice in the same month, but the crop was oats which made a lot of feed. We fed stock for a butcher that winter. Certainly a lot of work but some profit too.

The spring of 1930, Fred (Wes's brother) wanted to farm the home place, so, we moved to a rented place west, about four miles. We made our living from our milk cows, and chickens and pigs. Most of the people around us were putting in huge acreages as early as the fifteenth of March, before Wes started putting in a crop, which would be mostly oats for feed and a smaller acreage of wheat. That spring of 1930, I experienced my first dust storm. It was terrible for three days, the wind blew from the south east. One had to follow a rope from the house to the barn. It was nearly impossible to face the gritty stuff. Many acres had to be reseeded by those who had put in their crops so early. Wes seeded around a hundred acres in oats. Near the last of May and June the rains came. That fall it produced plenty of grain. The big farmers were in for a loss.

That fall and early part of 1931, the government offered free freight to farmers who wanted to move to better areas. So, after that the brothers and a couple of

other men made a scouting trip up around Millet and Pigeon Lake areas in February of 1931. That's how we happened to move to Millet where our stock and possessions were unloaded. We had 2 railways cars at our disposal, a stock car and a box car. We brought horses, cattle, pigs, chickens and the box car with machinery and household goods. Two of Wes's brothers came with the cars and Wes and his youngest sister, myself and our son. Lawrence, who was born April 3, 1931, was just three months old when we started our trip to the north together by auto. We had a model T Ford touring car and we made the trip to Pigeon Lake in good time. We stayed with one of Wes's cousins for the weekend while our things were moved out to the Maine's Estate south side of Conjuring Lake.

In the fall, Evelyn went to the Canyon Creek school, about a mile away on a path through the woods. Her teacher was Miss Lila Parslow, who lived in the teacherage with her sister. We had a good many impromptu parties, people coming in the evenings to hear the boys play the instruments, to sing or dance. After the first fall, the boys were engaged in playing for other activities, such as playing for a dance after a chivaree on a couple who had just been married. The dance was held in the Conjuring Lake hall. They also tuned pianos, two that I know in particular, one was for a Mrs. Beaton. The other was for Jack Perrin's parents, who had brought the piano out from England. It was a pleasure to hear their son play the Canterbury

Bells on it to test it after the tuning.

In January 1932, Wes' mother came out to visit us. She had a team of horses that she wanted to sell. She sold them to Jack Arthur, who had a livery barn in Thorsby. While she was here we took her to a "Bobby Burns" night at the Conjuring Lake hall on the 25th of

January 1932.

Wes filed on a homestead on March 11, 1933. He terminated the lease on the Maines Estate and we moved to the NE 20-47-W5 on April 23, 1933. Wes had sold several head of horses, but the best team, of perfectly matched mares, went to Melvin Olstead who had a store in Thorsby, but was moving to New Norway; he got them for a mere one hundred and fifty dollars. That was a lot of money in those days. Wes and I made one trip out, with two teams in early April, to fix up the shack that was there, the second trip to make the place livable. April 23, 1933 we moved mostly everything, except the cattle, which were left at Mr. Fodor Sr.'s place. The house was only three rooms, but rather cosy. A barn or shelter for the stock was covered with old straw.

Evelyn started to school at Fisherton. Mr. Wells, the teacher, sent a note back with her saying that we had a school district-Fern Creek, and if we wanted her to go to Fisherton, we would have to pay in advance. To go to the other school would mean her going through back bush trails only fit for winter use, to the north and west of us, the trail south of us was used by lumber haulers, for a lumber camp southwest. I went

to Edmonton with a neighbor and had our land transferred into the Fisherton School District.

That winter, Wes was continually on the road hauling feed. He got a young fellow to come every day, until he got back to do the chores. Unexpectedly, the next day after he had gone, our daughter Muriel was born, December 1933. Our chore-boy came, found out about the new arrival, he immediately walked back, a mile and a half and sent Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Maxwell, (new settlers) back there to look after things, until Wes got back. I had only a nearly seven year old daughter and a two year old son for company, she at least could keep the fires going and amuse the two year old. Now I look back and wonder how we managed! The next one to be born there was Jim in 1938. The youngest was a girl, Doreen, born in 1941. That was in the start of the war years, when three of Wes's brothers enlisted, so Wes did too, but the Army did not take him as he had a bad right eye. Over the years, our stock was sold or traded off. Wes worked in Calgary, but was mostly home in the winter. I stayed on the farm, gardening and sending the children to school. Many winters we did commercial fishing on Pigeon Lake, making about a dollar a day. I really got so sick of fish, I still don't care to eat them.

At one time the younger ones of the children went to Fern Creek school, as there was no teacher at Fisherton. When Muriel was ready for the higher grades, she boarded with Burrell and Marie Ladd who were living in Warburg at that time, and was bused from there to Thorsby. Evelyn married Bill Gitzel in January 1943. They lived a mile east of us. Doreen and Jim still went to the Fisherton school, their teacher was Mrs. Watson. They finished their grade nine there and the school bus routes started. Jim quit school but Doreen went on the bus to Thorsby High. The rest in the junior grades were sent to Sunnybrook school. Evelyn's 2 oldest children went there on the bus. The driver of their school bus was, and still is Mr. Ed Knopp. Mr. Raitz was the Principal at that time.

Over the years I've belonged to several women's organizations, such as the Lutheran Women's club organized by Rev. Goos, a minister from Thorsby, at Mission Beach. Then Evelyn and I helped to start the Fisherton Community Centre. She was the president and I was the sec.-treas. This was after Bill Gitzel died in an accident, Nov. 9, 1951. They had 6 children. Muriel married Ben Tobiasson, Dec. 19, 1951. Over the years they had 2 sons and a daughter. Jim married in July, 1957, they had six children, that ended in divorce. He remarried June 2, 1971 to Beatrice Smith, they have a daughter. Lawrence married May 14, 1958, they have no children and live in B.C. Doreen married Ted Ramshaw, November 23, 1963. They have 4 children. It was about this time that Wes's health deteriorated. He was in and out of hospital until he passed away April 8, 1973, just short of fifty years of marriage. Jim and family took over the farm the fall of 1973 - even tho' he works in Edmonton. I obtained a house in Warburg, where I presently reside. Looking



The Moore Family. L. to R. Wes, Lawrence, Muriel, Evelyn, Jim and Doreen, and Lois.

back over the last fifty-five years, I can think of two episodes. The one occurred shortly after we moved to the homestead. The cattle had just been brought out for us, with the stock safely locked in the corral, the men wanted to go to the creek, south of us to see if they could snare a fish. That morning I'd made a double batch of cake doughnuts, about six dozen. We took about a dozen with us. When we came back I looked at the pan that had held the doughnuts, and was rather shocked to find about eight or ten of them left. On the cover of the remains was anote which read "Eve said unto Adam, have an apple, but we had the doughnuts." After eating all they could, they carried away the rest.

The other episode happened many years later, I was walking back from the P.O. after getting the mail at Fisher Home. I was carrying a shopping bag and a gallon of coal oil. As I came up out of the coulee in front of Wilfrid Hasting's place, I discovered that his bull was out on the road. The bull had seen me about the same time and stamped up onto the road and stared at me. I whistled for the dog, no dog came, so I kept on walking towards the bull and picking up good sized gravel off the road throwing it at him, I kept that up until one of the pieces must have found its mark. He turned and galloped back thru the tangled wires of the fence, into a clump of willows where the cows were, but they were too close to the road and I had to walk by them, expecting any minute that he might take a notion to still come after me. I kept on walking, I did not dare to look back to see if he was going to come, for what could I have done, there was no traffic on the road. I think of this many times and shudder. We did suffer many hardships, as well as pleasurable times, especially the day to day living. Truth has no greater meaning than to bear it out in living over so many years to now reap the reward of having the respect of our children, and grandchildren, and great grandchildren, 22 of the former, 14 of the latter.

THE BERTHA OLSON STORY

as told by her

Bertha Smith was born at Elbow Lake, Minnesota, the daughter of Anton and Bertha (Krielvang) Smith. The family, consisting of the parents and the first six children came to Canada in 1910. Elsie and Charles were born in Canada. Christine died at age thirteen and Elsie at six months. The family first came to Red Deer and later Sunnybrook area where they settled on land south of that town.

Bertha married Clarence Olson in 1930. Clarence was born south of Calmar where his parents, Matt and Signe (Nystrom) Olson, had homesteaded in the Willow Creek District. Clarence attended Willow Creek School.

In 1939, Bertha and Clarence went to Mission Beach where they purchased an attractive lot and built a home. They had two children: Arlyce and Darrel. In 1947 the family moved to New Westminister, B.C. and then returned to Mission Beach in 1950. Clarence, after a long illness, passed away in 1956 and rests in the Union Cemetery at Warburg.

Bertha sold her home at Mission Beach in 1976 and purchased a home in Thorsby where she now resides.

Arlyce married Joseph Ewen Allen and has a son Arleigh and a daughter Dalyce. They live in Edmonton. Son Darrel works presently for a drilling company in the Philippines after having been in Algeria, North Africa, for two years. Mrs. Olson and granddaughter Dalyce made the long flight to the Phillipines, in July, 1978, to visit Darrel for a month.



Darrel Olson, of Mission Beach, on the Island of Melorca, near Spain, 1976.

BERT OPPEGAARD HISTORY

written by Bert Oppegaard

My folks, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Oppegaard, came to Alberta from Erskine, Minnesota in 1910 and took a homestead in the Athabasca area. Dad hauled freight from Athabasca to Edmonton by team. Dad owned his own sawmill and sawed logs both at Athabasca and Seryle. He also had the only threshing machine in the district. Our family consisted of myself, being the only boy, (Bert), Hazel (Mrs. J. Dennis), Frances (Mrs. Shampan), Pearl (Mrs. Richard Drummond), and Eunice (Mrs. George Killaly), also 2 half-sisters and a half-brother, Carol (Mrs. Fitzgerald), Hamilton Anderson and Lil (Mrs. Henry Norstuen).



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Opegaard, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. L. to R. Mary Killaly and Ralph Green, Mrs. George Killaly, Ed Kobak, Carol Fitzgerald, Myrtle Killaly, Gerald Dennis, Mrs. Oppegaard (Sr.) Bert, Joan Robak and Stanley, Fay Green, Larry Killaly and Dennis Green in front, Oscar Oppegarrd, Marvin Oppegaard, Robert Oppegaard and Donna Green.



Oppegarrd's Sawmill on Percy Killaly's place.

Hazel, Frances, Pearl and I were all born at Athabasca, Eunice was born in Edmonton. We moved to Edmonton in 1924. My father, Carol and I each took a homestead in the Mission Beach area of Pigeon Lake. There Dad and I owned our own sawmill and cut logs and sawed and planed our own lumber. We sold the lumber or traded it for groceries and clothing etc. with the Hoffman brothers in their store. It was then known as the Thorsby Traders in the 1930's. During that time and the early '40's we dealt with A.M. Burns at Patience. He was better known as Shorty. We also dealt with R. Wyley at Mulhurst.

In 1942, Irene Killaly and I were married in

Thorsby by the Rev. A. Goos. We have made our home since then in the district except for several years when we lived in Fort McMurray, Alberta.

We have 2 sons, Marvin, who is a mechanic, and is married to Judith Rosenke, daughter of the Rev. H. Rosenke of Westerose. They have 2 children; Michelle, seven years old and Kent, four years old. Robert, our second son, is a partsman and is married to Rose Marie Sorge of Fort McMurray. They have 2 children. Rose is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Art Sorge of Fort McMurray. Both sons and their families live in Thorsby.



Wedding of Bob and Rose Oppegarrd in front of The Gospel Church in Fort McMurray, July 14, 1973. L. to R. Bert and Irene Oppegaard Bob's parents. On right Judy and Marvin Oppegaard, brother of the groom.

E. BEATRICE PARKER

E. Beatrice Parker was born in Essex county near Windsor, Ontario, the only child of Samuel J. and Victoria Blackley Parker. She can trace her ancestry for three and four Canadian-born generations of Scottish, Irish and Welsh people who settled in Ontario in the Kingston and Windsor areas at the time of, or soon after, the American Revolution. During early childhood, she came with her parents to their homestead south-east of Red Deer. She therefore experienced the trials and tribulations of pioneering in a new land. She obtained her education in Alberta which she completed at the U. of A with B.A. and B.Ed. degrees as well as numerous specializatoin courses.

Ms. Parker spent more than forty years in Education in Alberta — the last eighteen were in an Edmonton City High School where she was Department Head in Business Education for twelve years. She completed her career by specializing in Senior English, art, and business mathematics, along with training education students for the U. of A. in class-room procedure.

A long-time desire to help preserve the experiences of the pioneers prompted her to accept a nomination to the Editors' Committee of the Local History Society for Thorsby and District. For the past twenty-five, Ms. Parker has had a home overlooking Pigeon Lake at Mission Beach. In 1976 she built a new home in Thorsby after parting with a fine home in Edmonton. She still maintains her home at the Lake.

Her hobbies and pastimes include: study of



E. Beatrice Parker, B.A., B.E.



The Mason tree, corner of yard of B. Parker's home, Mission Beach, 1965.

history, culture of roses, oil painting and sketching, needlepoint and crewel embroidery, and community activities. She is member of several organizations, some of which are: O.E.S., O.O.R.P., I.O.D.E., Greenpeace Foundation, Canadian Wildlife Assoc., Canadian Rose Society, Friends of the U. of A. Botanic Garden, and was given a lifetime membership in the A.T.A. in recognition of her work as a member of that organization.

PETUH FAMILY

by Louise Petuh

I was born the daughter of Sarah and Henry Meaver on July 26, 1896 at Pigeon Lake, Alberta. I grew up on our homestead with our parents, four sisters and four brothers. My name is Louise and I was the oldest of the family. We lived in Edmonton for a few years when it was still a fort. Then we moved back to Pigeon Lake.

I married Steve Petuh, of Warsaw, Poland, in November 1920. Our wedding was quite hilarious because when we got to Wetaskewin and got our rooms to change clothes, Steve had taken the wrong suitcase. The one he took contained only underclothes, so he was married in the clothes he had on. In those days it was too far to go back to the lake to pick up his proper things and get back to Wetaskiwin on time. But everything turned out fine for us anyway.

We took up a homestead next to my parents and started raising a family. We had a family of ten children. Mary Jane (Jean), Christie Rose, Dorothy Agnes, Phillip Stephen, Elsie Delia, Coral Margarete, Adelaide Ann, Luana Joan, Shirley Gwendolyn, and Steve Fredrick. It was not easy raising a big family as money was scarce, but everyone worked hard and we had a good time. Our home was a log house and it still stands today as a summer cottage although it is not owned by the family. There was a lot of good times in this house. When there was a birthday or wedding we took out the partitions and put the furniture aside and had many good dances there and parties.

After about three years on the farm we moved to Olds, Alberta. We stayed there only a short time and moved back to Pigeon Lake to the farm. The men did a lot of fishing and hunting as wild game was very plentiful so we never lacked for meat. Commercial fishing was one of our main incomes. We made our own nets and had horses and cabooses to take on the lake in the winter time. Ice was cut in the spring from the lake and packed in sawdust so it kept all summer. Steve worked in sawmills and on roads for the government, went out harvesting for other farmers in the fall for extra money. Lots of times he only made a dollar a day, which was almost a top wage. But regardless, we survived it all.

Sundays were always quite special in our house. There was Church and Sunday School. Ice cream to be made every Sunday morning, meals were usually made in the morning so the rest of the day everyone could go to the ball games or have in company and just sort of relax. We enjoyed company and had lots of it. We played a fair amount of cards like Whist, King Pedro and had card parties.

We had our own little black smith shop for shoeing our own horses and Steve repaired the childrens' shoes out there too, on the shoe lath. We never had electricity on the farm until after the family had grown up, so all the washing, ironing and so on was done the hard way, by hand. Our stoves were wood and coal. The logs were cut by the men and hauled in and cut with a small saw into short pieces and split by hand for fire-wood.

There were a lot of Indians out around our place when we moved out there, but we had no trouble with them. Actually they were all quite friendly, but slowly they moved on to reserves.

Regardless of the hard times we tried to make Christmas, Easter and birthdays kind of special. There was always pop corn, eggs to color, taffy pulls and things which were family fun.

As the children grew up, they went to work and helped us as much as they could. Schooling for them was hard as they had $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to walk to Mulhurst or



Phill Petuh with horses on the farm.



Steve and I with our first grandson to carry the Petuh name, Peter Petuh. This picture taken at Mulhurst.

Fisherton. Most of them went to Fisherton which only taught up to grade nine. Then Sandholm School was built which was only $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away so the younger ones had it easier, but it still only went to grade nine. We could not afford to send them away from home to high school, although a few did get their high school education.

Steve and I worked for Kiss Construction at his logging camp in about 1948 – '49. I cooked and Steve was head bull cook. We also moved to Hinton for a few years where Steve worked in the sawmill there, after the family had grown up, but we always returned to the homestead.

Our children all married and live in surrounding districts. Jean married Ewalt Ankerstien and lived on a farm near Sandholm School. She still lives there but her husband passed away June 6, 1976. Rose married Alvin Olson and they lived in Edmonton, Warburg and a few other places. Rose now lives in Calmar, as she also lost her husband on September 27, 1975. Dorothy married Dave Erickson and lives in Thorsby, Phillip married Ruth Furcho and lives in Fort St. John, B.C. Elsie married Barry Thorson and lives in Edson. Coral married Alfred Horner and they now live in Leduc. Joan married Nick Fryk and lives in Edmonton. Shirley married Allan Wood and resides in Devon. Steve Jr. married Lynn Ptollomy and lives in Grande Prairie.

We sold the farm and moved to Mulhurst in 1956. We bought a home there and lived in it until 1972. Our children had a big party for our 49th wedding anniversary and had open house on our 50th anniversary. These occasions were celebrated with many, many relatives and great friends. Relatives and friends are something everyone needs and we had lots of them, Thank God.

I am sad to say we lost our beloved husband and father on September 29, 1972. He was a man with little temper and a love for people and a joy for life. He only had his immediate family and no other relatives in Canada. He had no contact at all with his family after the First War. Friends he had many of, too numerous to count. He is buried at Rundle Mission Cemetery at Pigeon Lake. He was 86 years at his passing. He had a healthy life and enjoyed himself wherever he went.



Our eight daughters from left to right. Back row — Carol, Shirley, Elsie, Joan, Rose. Front row — Adlaide, Dorothy, Jean at a family reunion at Dorothy's farm.

I have 38 grandchildren and 18 greatgrandchildren, which all live in Alberta and British Columbia. We still have three generations of Petuhs: Phillip - his son, Peter Petuh; grandson - Chad Ryan Petuh.

I now live in Parkland Nursing Home in Leduc. My family helped me celebrate my 82 birthday on July 26, 1978. I feel very fortunate to have such a big family and all of them well and healthy. My relatives and friends have got to be some of the greatest people. I thank God for all of them.

MEMORIES OVER THE YEARS

by Kathleen Quick

I remember when I was no more than 4, we were going to the lake one Sunday with the driving team and buggy, when we came to a wet spot in the road. We started across, but then were bogged down. We all got out of the buggy, dad unhitched the team, then took them as far out as he could, hitched them to the end of the tongue, and it was all the horses could do to pull it out.

In those days the people in each district would serve on the council, build their school and pay the teacher. They would get together to build a school, that was close to a spring, or a hand-dug well was made. Woodheaters would heat the schools. Someone close to the school would go to make the fire every morning.

In winter, the only warm place was just around the stove. Three times a year, our school was cleaned from top to bottom. During the year, the bigger kids took turns cleaning the school, keeping the fire going, and getting the wood and water. Sometimes for punishment, the kids would have to do this. We had 2 outhouses, 1 for the girls and 1 for the boys. We used newspaper most of the time out there.

If we were lucky, we had a barn in our schoolyard. Whoever used it had to clean it. Some of the kids would ride to school with horses, but not too often. Sometimes we would have water in our pond that would freeze over, then we would all go skating or sliding on the ice. We didn't all have skates, but we borrowed each others. The boys would play hockey on one side, and the girls on the other. We rushed out as soon as we ate our lunch.

We had no such thing as running water in those days. If we had water close, good! Most schools had an organ or piano. Friday afternoons we all had a sing-along. Our library was a great thing to us. It was just a book case of 500 books. For a half hour in the afternoon, we had a story read to us. This was very relaxing.

In the cold winter and rainy days, we all knit squares, then the teacher hooked them together for us to make an afghan, which we sold tickets on. The money was used for our picnic and Christmas concert. Our teacher worked long and hard on our concert. It was looked forward to by all. We liked to have our concerts at night, but most of the time they were in the afternoon. For our picnic we had games and races, and a ball game played by all.

Education after grade 9 was hard to come by. The young people had to go to town. We all took pride in our schoolyard. Spring found us all out raking the yard. Most of us had 2 or 3 miles to go to school. What was really bad was in the winter when the roads drifted in. We would fall through the snow up to our hips every stride we took.

Friends stayed overnight with us, and we'd go to their places. This way we got to know each other's parents. We all walked together as much as possible.

In those days the cattle and horses would be on the roads, sometimes even bulls. When we were smaller we would go way out of our way to get away from them. They made a mess of the roads.

Once when going home from school, and there had been a heavy rain, water was running over the bridge. (We had two ways to go home, the other way was further.) It had been raining for a few days so not too many kids had come that day. My 2 girl friends were the only two from that way, so my brother and I went home that way. We had an umbrella with us. As we crossed the bridge the water was so strong it washed us off the bridge and into this hole. We all hung on to each other, and for a few minutes we didn't think we were going to make it. Finally my brother hooked the umbrella onto something and we pulled ourselves out. We were wet from one end to the other.

I guess my brother saved our lives, and were just glad to be alive.

We didn't have a church close we could go to, so this old couple half a mile from us, Mr. and Mrs. John Wagar, would have Sunday school in their house. They always had a lovely garden and flowers. In summer we would sit out in the garden and sing. Sometimes Sunday school was held at the school. The missionaries would preach to us. We went to the lake together. The first trailer I saw, was owned by them. Sports day was always a great day for us in Thorsby, and we would all go in for that. Mr. Samardzic was a farm implement dealer. The first show I saw was put on by him, free of charge. It was a great day for all.

Threshing time was really a great event. Buzz Macaulay used to do ours. The boys would take time out from school, take a team and go too. They had a bunk house on wheels. It would go with the machine. The men took their bedding. They were gone for weeks, going from place to place, until they were done. It was a busy time for the women. They would help each other out with the cooking. Doughnuts, cakes, cookies and pies were needed, also vegetables and meat. Breakfast was porridge, bacon and eggs, fried potatoes, and pancakes. Morning and afternoon lunch was served with tea, coffee, sandwiches, cake and cookies. Usually someone had a mouth organ or guitar and after the work was done, there was playing and singing, then to bed for the long tomorrow. When the grain bins were cleaned and ready, someone had to haul the grain and shovel it off the wagon.

When I was younger, most of us only had dug wells, but sometimes there wasn't enough water to go around. When this happened, we had to chase the cattle to a spring or to the neighbors who had a good well. This was done after school or before.

We all learned to bake bread and churn butter. The butter had to be washed good in cold water. Mother would sell butter and bread at the store for groceries. The cows were milked through the winter, and the cream sold. We lived off this. We had chickens that laid all winter. The eggs were used, and sold. Spring chickens were raised along with turkeys, some were sold in the summer, and some in the fall. The younger kids usually looked after the chickens and carried most of the water and wood. My brother used to say he had one arm longer than the other from this. He was always thinking up some new way to carry wood.

It wasn't too often that we got home from school and our parents were gone. If they were, it would seem very lonely. The fires would be down and the house would be cold. It would take them all day to go to town with the horses, mostly if grain had to be ground. One night I was left alone with Dad and a bad storm had come up and the rest of the family weren't back from town. Dad went out looking for them, and it seemed that he was gone forever. We had an old cylinder record player, so I put that on so I wouldn't be lonely. However, he wasn't gone too long. They were stuck in the snow bank a mile from home. How it must have



Grinding grain for Sam Wickstrom, 1939. John Halladay's outfit.

been for the ones that came so long ago!

We were lucky to have a mail delivery, come rain or shine he was always there. You could set your watch by him, a wonderful man, Mr. Blomquist. He always had a half-ton truck, or a good team of horses. He used the sleigh or buggy if the roads were bad. He took our cream and eggs to town for us. He'd bring medicine or a few groceries out for you if you really needed them. He got most of Annie Macaulay's groceries for her, as she lived all alone. Sometimes we would get a ride to town with him or he'd give you a ride home if you came in on the bus or train. When the roads were really bad he would get Harold, my older brother, to take the mail on from our place, which he did with team or horseback.

Most of our goods were bought from the catalogue. One thing we really looked forward to was the new catalogue, mostly the Christmas one.

Saturday morning the boys were up early to have their work mostly done so they could rush and get the mail from the mailman. There was the Free Press and the Western Producer. They all wanted the funny paper first. The paper didn't stay together long, but there seemed to be enough to go around. There was always a good serial going on in the middle part of the paper, to be read on Sunday, as Saturday was always housecleaning day.

Lots of wood and water had to be carried in Saturday as this was bath night. The old cook stove was red hot and the boiler steaming on top. The old round bathtub was set in front of the stove. We all took our turn the youngest to the oldest. Sunday we all dressed up.

In the really cold days in winter our porch was piled high with dry wood, green wood, and old roots as they were used for night wood. There was always a box of dry shavings behind the wood stove. In the really cold days Dad slept beside the heater at night, so if the fire went down, he could wake up and put more wood

on. Even at that, sometimes our water was frozen over. I can still remember the beautiful designs of the thick white frost on the windows. I would sit many times and watch it disappear. Dad was always up early and had the house warm, and a large pot of porridge on the stove for us. The kind I liked best was the whole wheat he saved and had ground into cereal. That, with brown sugar and cream, was hard to beat.

The most beautiful thing I can remember is coming home from the Christmas concert, the sleigh box full of hay, wrapped bricks to keep our feet warm, and lots of quilts to keep us warm. The moon would shine on the snow, and there was just the sound of the sleigh bells as the sleigh swished over the snow and all the family would sing together.

On days we didn't get out to play, Mom had a trunk of books, scrap books of post cards and greeting cards of Mom and Dad's treasures from years gone by. Mom would go through this with us, telling us stories as she went. It was like another world.

We sometimes went to Wetaskiwin. It was always interesting to see the Indians on the street, with their long black braids. We quite often saw them going by our place. They had a team and wagon with their tentpoles sticking out behind. They sometimes camped at our gate, or even stopped in for food. Mom gave them milk, eggs, bread and sometimes a chicken.

The buildings were mostly log, so there was a lot of upkeep to these - plastering and banking, and lots of bedding for winter. When the ice froze over, ice fishing would start. They usually got 2 pulls. The fish were frozen in snow or in the grain. Some were canned. They had the hall at Mulhurst, where fish were sold and cleaned. The hall was then cleaned up and they had a dance there. Later on it was used for shows, but the fish smell never left for years.

My dad went hunting, often, but for some families in the district, hunting was a big event in the fall. The meat was then put up for winter, frozen, smoked, or canned. My dad would tell how when he first came, the wild chickens were in the trees and you could kill them with a stick.

In the winter, the boys worked in the lumber camps. On the farm everyone learned to drive the horses, cars, and truck. When the war was on everything was on ration. I guess you all remember the ration books. We had ration books for butter, tea, coffee, and sugar. Honey was used a lot in cooking then. It was hard to get clothing, rubbers, underwear, cloth and fine stockings. Gas was rationed also - it was impossible to get tires and tubes, and it was nothing to patch a tire a dozen times before getting back from town. One only went to town if one had to get supplies, the doctor, dentist, or glasses. The bus and train were used a lot. One has to take one's hat off to truck drivers and bus drivers, as our roads were something else to drive on, with the mud holes and bad hills all around. We very seldom saw a snow plow.

Thanks should go to the public health nurses and to Dr. Hankin who stayed with us from early times. He came out here so young, and many were the babies he delivered travelling in the snow and mud.

During the hard times, the government put out medical clinics in some of the larger homes and buildings. At Mulhurst, it was in one of Dowler's log cabins where the Golf Club is now. Everyone from far and wide took their children down to have a medical. They used the kitchen for the operating room, tonsils and whatever, were operated on. I was one of them, then went home that day.

When the war came along it was really sad to see our friends and family go off to war. Most of us had battery-run radios, so we all kept track of what was going on overseas. Many a prayer went out for them all to get back home soon. They had to take their turns in coming back, as only so many could come at one time. Then we would listen to see how the storms were at sea. While the war was on, we had a shortage of school teachers too. Many of the schools were closed down, the kids had to go to other schools, and some had to go to other towns, others had farther to walk. Many grade 8 and 9 girls were allowed to teach. They did a very good job too.

Pneumonia and whooping cough were very hard on people. Some didn't survive. My Mom helped out on such cases. She also delivered babies. When the war was over, the cars started moving again. They were rather hard to get so all types were used. Most of the men fixed cars. I had 4 older brothers so it was nothing to see the yard full of cars with parts all over and the boys fixing cars on the weekends. The boys got hold of a grain grinder and an old tractor. They then went into grinding grain for the farmers around. After the war, better equipment started coming in, work started on our roads, and some got sand and gravel on them. By this time wind chargers were starting to go in for electricity, light plants, and batteries. Also there were windmills on most of the farms for pumping water. Water well rigs were coming in, farms had better wells.



School picnic about 1952.

Bill Quick, my father-in-law, did well drilling.

Then oil was found at Leduc. This put many farmers to work in the oil patch. Young people were getting married and going out into the field. The housing shortage was really something. Little shacks were built to live in, or granaries were moved into town. The shacks would come and go. The rent was unreal. You were here today and gone tomorrow, moving day and night. With the mud and rain, the roads were just unreal. The old caterpillar was our best friend and sometimes even it got stuck. I remember when they pulled the cars through Calmar with a "cat". The towns were booming for awhile and then they subsided. The businesses were so busy they never had time to get the mud off the floors. No vacuum was needed, just a shovel. The gas pumps were busy. The car repair shops and the tires sold and repaired were unreal. Then people started building their own trailers, making it much better for our family, as we moved every 3 weeks or so. Soon the trailers were brought in from the States. Oil rigs dotted the country far and wide, all across Alberta.

What a time we had for water! It had to be hauled in cans, when the men had time to get it. We were parked in mud holes. The working conditions were awful. They didn't get days off in those days, only a long change every 3 weeks. Spring breakup was time off, with no pay coming in. What a demand there was for large trucks, cars and half-tons, more cats and equipment! Our roads really went to pieces, with all the heavy traffic. Bridges started going in and more roads and gravel didn't last long, so more and more was put on.

We had forest fires again and the country was left black for miles. Farms were opening up more and more. Calgary Power was coming into small towns. The farms, for a good sum of money, could now get power. Telephones were coming in far and wide. More schools were needed, so they took out our small schools and provided a bus to pick up the children from the farms. Pipelines ran for miles. Oil companies built schools in places. We had Sunday School in too. Canada finally started making trailers, much bigger now. More houses were built. More hospitals, business buildings, banks, loan companies and airports also appeared. Canada's Expo was a great event. Montreal was going strong and unity looked good. Now, looking out, one can see miles of hard top, and cars and trucks like ants. With miles and miles of open country, all our small towns are growing into cities. There is opportunity unlimited and the young people are travelling the world.

Thanks to the people of all nations who came in with a dream and made it come true - with all the hardship, pain, cold, snow, rain and mud - they showed us courage. Thank goodness for the Golden Age centres, to let those strong people continue with all their knowledg. It is good to see them with a pension, so they can live a good life, travel, and enjoy living. Will our grandchildren do the same?

EDWARD AND JEANETTE ROTH

an interview by E.B.P.

The Roths have retired to their home at Mission Beach.

Edward is the son of Adolph and Minnie (Bannick) who were married in South Dakota and came to Strome, Alberta in 1906. They took a homestead in that area. Their sons: Charlie, Frank and Gust also took homesteads nearby.

Adolph acquired a steam engine and a 14-bottom breaking plough which he and his sons used to plow the raw land. The engine was also used on a big grain separator (42 in. cylinder) to thresh grain in the fall. They had a bunk car and cook car and did custom threshing over a wide area. There were fourteen bundle haulers (a rack on a wagon hauled by a team of horses and one man to drive the horses and pile the grain bundles that a man on the ground pitched up to him); two spike pitchers that took the bundles from the rack and tossed them onto the conveyor at the front of the separator; four field pitchers to throw the bundles from the stooks onto the racks; a separator man who checked belts and re-laced them with leather thongs to keep them taut and applied oil or grease to moving parts; engineer who was the engine mechanic and a fireman to feed wood and coal into the firebox and water into the steam chamber; a water-man hauled a tank of water for the engine from a nearby slough or well and operated the pump to feed water into the tanks on the engine and last but not least a wood and coal hauler.

Their houses were built of logs that were squared-off at a mill and then stood on ends to form the walls and covered with siding. The roofs were shingled. Adolph's house was $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories with basement.



Ed Roth operating a brush cutter in 1936.



Ed Roth and L. Worshek's threshing outfit near Telfordville, 1942.

They raised cattle, pigs and a lot of horses, also chickens, geese, ducks and turkeys.

Edward and sister Elsie were born at Strome and went to school in Forestberg. Before W.W. I three of the older boys, Charlie, Frank and Gust, returned to the States to join the U.S. army. Johnnie and Albert stayed in Alberta.

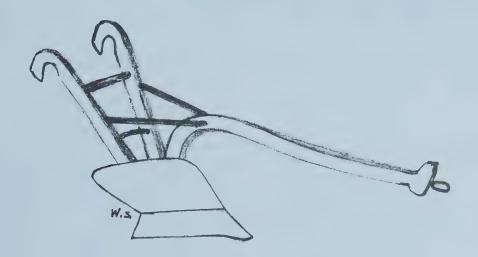
After drought and crop failures, the family sold the farm and Adolph and Minnie moved to town.

Edward in 1936 went looking for better land in the Telfordville district. He bought a quarter-section of land between Sunnybrook and Warburg. A house in Telfordville was bought and moved onto the farm. He worked for wages for several years and bought machinery to start in the brush-cutting business from 1936 to 1948. He then moved onto his farm in 1950.

Edward and Jeanette Seidel were married in 1940. Jeanette was the daughter of Chas. and Louise (Stewart) Seidel. Drought in Montana had driven them north to greener fields at Telfordville. Louise, teacher and poet, gave up her work to pioneer in Alberta. Edward and Jeanette had four children: Phyllis who married Gordon Schnick; Jean married Frank Szepesi; Karen married Blake Brown; and a son Keith.

They worked hard on the farm. Seventy-five acres were cleared with the brush cutter and later another thirty-five. The 110 acres was used for wheat, oats, barley and clover. Eight cows were kept for milk which was sold to the cheese factory. Pigs, ducks, chickens and geese were raised. Turkeys proved to be unsatisfactory.

The farm was sold in 1972 and Mr. and Mrs. Roth moved to Mission Beach on Pigeon Lake.

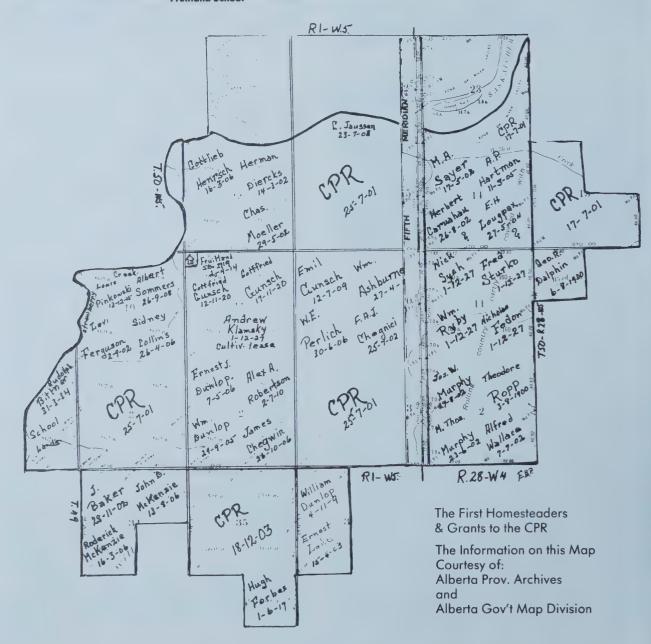




Fruitland School

Fruitland

School District No. 2719 April 2, 1914



FRUITLAND SCHOOL #2719

by Gwendolyn Ross

Excerpts from minutes of May 1, 1912.

"Moved by W.E. Perlich, sec. by Herman Diercks that Charles Moeller be appointed chairman of the board. Moved by H. Diercks and sec. by W.E. Perlich that W.A. Dunlop be appointed sec.-treas. of the district at a salary of \$25.00 a year.

Moved by Perlich, sec. by Diercks that the proposed site for the school be the SW corner of sec. 13. Moved by Perlich, sec. by Diercks that the sec.-treas. procure all necessary supplies including corporate seal. Moved by Perlich, sec. by Diercks that the sec.-treas. write to the Dept. asking for a decision as to which is the most suitable site, the SW corner of sec. 13 or the middle of the southern boundary of the SW 14-50-1-W5.

Moved by Diercks, sec. by Perlich that the meeting adjourn".

Charles Moeller, chairman.

Minutes of school board meeting June 15, 1912.

Excerpt. "moved by Chas. Moeller that sec.-treas. write the Dept. asking that the site on SW of sec. 14 be approved. Moved by H. Diercks that sec.-treas. write to Karl Moeller, Strathcona, with regards to purchasing the school site from him, consisting of 1 acre, also the price per acre."

Charles Moeller, chairman.

Minutes of school meeting July 29, 1912.

Excerpt. "Moved by C. Moeller that the school be

not built this year, but the site be fenced and the material be procured for a cement foundation. Also a trench to be dug for foundation.

Moved by H. Diercks that the chairman and sec.-treas. have authority to borrow by note for the district, the sum of \$50.00 from the Merchants Bank in Leduc, to meet expenses for the current year.

Moved by H. Diercks that the sum of \$10.00 be paid the Dept. for school site on SW 1/4 11.

Moved by C. Moeller that sec.-treas. prepare the assessment roll and mail the assessment and tax notices and that the rate of taxation for the year 1912 be $4\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per acre. Also that the sec.-treas. procure stamps and envelopes to the value of \$3.00".

Excerpts from Jan. 17, 1913 minutes.

The tax rate was to be set for that year at 5¢. By-law No. 1 relating to the issue of debentures for Fruitland School 2719. "Whereas it is necessary and desirable that the sum of \$800.00 should be borrowed on the security of Fruitland S.D. for the purpose of erecting a frame school house and outbuildings".

March 10, 1913 meeting minutes.

Excerpt. "Moved by Diercks that J.F. Stiles offer of \$220.00 for material for school house 20x30x9 walls and 11 ft. ceiling. Except rough lumber be accepted and the rough lumber be procured wherever possible at current prices. Moved by C. Moeller that the offer of the Western School Supply Co. of Regina, Sask. to buy debentures at par $6\frac{1}{2}\%$ interest be accepted. Moved by Diercks that all materials be put on grounds as soon as possible. Rate



This is a picture of the pupils taken at the second Fruitland school in 1930. Some of them had three and four miles to walk to attend school. The teacher was Miss Watson. Pupils, Back Row: from I. to r. are: George Snider, Robert Klemky, Sam Gunsch, Archie Dunlop, Delaurice Smith, Fred Smith, Agnes Snider, Martha Gitzel, Elsie Klemky, Alma Moeller, Tina Bilou; next row: David Gaulter, Walter Dunlop, Leo Klemky, Ed Krukowski, Mark Forbes, Bill Bilou, Genevieve Strautman, Alma Klemky, Kathleen Rixon, Evelyn Dentman, Doris Forbes; Front Row: Alex Babiak, John Babiak, Fred Melesko, Millie Snider, Ruby Forbes, Gladys Dentman, Velma Smith, Jennie Krukowski.



Group Photo in Front of Fruitland School. Back Row: Erna Klatt, Mike Wasyliw, Inez Bittner, Hadey Klatt, Isabel Klemky, Norman Bittner, Doris Gitzel, Olga Jakowitzki, Robert Oxamitney, Bill Wasyliw, Elsie Klatt, Lilly Stein. Middle Row: Adeline Klemky, Maurice Schauer, Walter Klemky, Metro Domzy, Millie Domzy, Richard Rodash, David Gitzel, Walter Fedan, Harry Klatt. Front Row: aHarvey Moeller, Iris Diericks, Dorothy Dentman, Dolores Dobko, Grace Gaulter, Johnny Meleshko, Ray Oxamitney, Vernon Stein, Cora Gitzel.

of wages for hauling not to exceed \$5.00 a day. Members present C. Moeller, H. Diercks and C. Snider".

June 6, 1913 minutes.

"Moved by H. Diercks that the total estimated expenditure for 1913 being \$639.70, the rate of assessment on the land within the municipality Pioneer #490, be fixed at $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ and the rate on land outside municipality to be fixed at 8% an acre.

Secretary was to be given \$1.00 for stamps and envelopes. Moved by C. Snider that S.D. Maine's offer of \$120.00 for completing woodwork on school house and privies be accepted".

Nov. 14, 1913. The following bills which had been presented were to be paid as soon as possible.

en presented were to be paid as soon	as possible.
G. Gitzel	
work building account	\$55.00
E. Gunsch	
work building account	10.50
G. Snider	
work building account	6.10
C.W. Gaetz	
hardware & furniture	61.20
W.A. Dunlop	
work, build. acc. freight	18.70
S.D. Maine	
remainder of contract	
J.F. Stiles	
lumber & materials	175.00
C.H. Ohrn	
rough lumber	92.15
Alberta School Supply Co.	180.65

Dec. 26, 1913 meeting. Excerpts. "Moved by H. Diercks that G. Snider be allowed \$5.00 for cleaning school ground and that \$10.00 be remitted to Dept. of Interior for 1 acre of

Moved by Charles Snider the meeting adjourn.

land for school site. Also that John Moeller be paid \$6.00 for 500 ft. of lumber and be given the job of delivering to the school house 1 cord tamarack and 3 cords of poplar stove wood at \$1.50 per cord. Moved and carried that Mr. S.G.B. Kennedy's application for teacher at \$780.00 per year be accepted. Moved by C. Moeller that the sec. treas. be paid \$15.00 on salary".

Nov. 6, 1914 meeting.

Excerpts. "Following bills to be paid. E. Gunsch scrubbing \$3.00. A.A. Norton putting on windows \$10.00. Charles Moeller for hauling 1500 ft. of lumber from ferry and for building woodshed 12x4 ft. District to furnish nails and hinges. Moved by W.A. Dunlop that the sum of \$54.20 be paid Miss Miriam Martin as balance of salary on last term ending June 30, 1914. Moved by C. Snider that sec.-treas. advertise in Edmonton Bulletin for teacher for term commencing Jan. 4, ad to run 1 week for \$2.25.

Fees for cleaning school wells were \$1.00. Mrs. Amy B. Keane was engaged to teach the school for the remainder of the year (182 teaching days) at rate of \$65.00 per month".

The next teachers were, 1916 Rose H. Dittrich. Jan. 1917 Clara E. Kafler. Jan. 1918 Kenneth LeRoy Dick was engaged for the ensuing term of 5 months and 24 days at \$3.43 per teaching day, term ending June 30.

Jan. 6, 1919, Miss E.W. Toller's application for teacher was read and accepted. She was paid \$5.00 a month for janitoring. Aug. 8, 1919 Miss Margaret Moller was accepted as teacher at a salary of \$840.00 to commence teaching Sept. 1, 1919.

In 1920 Miss Jessie McFarquhar was hired to

teach, no salary mentioned.

Miss Mary Barr was hired in 1921 for first term at

\$1100.00 per year.

Miss D. McDonough was next one hired for a term commencing Feb. 3, 1921 and terminating June 30, 1921. At this time William Moeller was the sec.-treasurer.

The next teachers were, Miss Agnes Moran for 68 teaching days at rate of \$4.30 per teaching day. Sept. 29, 1924 Miss Pauline Cain was engaged at rate of \$4.76 teaching day. Jan. 7, 1925 Miss Dorothea Murray taught for the same salary.

Jan. 23, 1926 Mrs. Margaret Curry taught for \$6.00 a day. Sept. 1926 Miss Muriel Peck was

engaged as teacher for salary of \$1000.00.

In Jan. 1927 the trustees were Mr. J. Campbell, P. Leeder, W. Dolling. Others mentioned at meetings were Dunlop, Klemky, M. Bittner, L. Schoonover and chairman of board was P. Leeder.

Dec. 7, 1929 a meeting was called to consider the alternatives of boundaries of the district and moving of the school house. 12 ratepayers were present and after discussion it was moved by Charles Moeller, sec. by M. Bittner that the matter be tabled until they heard from Dept. of Ed. Bd. It was arranged for Dunlop to obtain approximate cost of moving school house.

Annual meeting Jan. 15, 1930.

It was decided that the school should be moved to the centre of the district as per new boundaries suggested by the Dept. Jan. 25, tenders were let for digging well at \$1.00 per ft, Bill Snider to do it. Moving school and barn \$175.00, Bill Snider. Hauling 12 yds. of gravel at \$2.50 a yd. A. Klemky. Hauling 2 tons of coal at \$7.50 per ton, A. Moeller. Posts 6½ ft. long and 6 inches thick at thin end and peeled ready to set in ground, priced 18¢ a post and Harry Meleshko to deliver 150 of them. Mr. A. Klemky \$2.50 for janitor work. The Rev. H.G. Rice of Telfordville \$5.00 for auditing books.

April 1930 excerpts. "Moved by M. Bittner that a settlement be made with Mr. Gaulter on the school land — 3 acres for the new school site".

May 31, 1930. "Board of trustees has agreed to

let the contract for building new school to Mr. F. Hayduck of Calmar Lumber Co. for sum of \$1980.00. Contract was let to Chris Bilou for grubbing the new school grounds at \$7.25. It was passed by the Bd. to move the barn and on meeting of July 12 to pay Chris Bilou \$10.00 for the grubbing.

July 22 meeting. It was decided to sell the old school house and lot by public auction on Aug. 16 at 2 p.m. Mr. A. Klemky was paid \$8.00 for moving barn. W. Snider \$10.00 for breaking new school grounds.

Aug. 16, 1930. School was sold for \$190.00 and lot for \$31.00 to Bittner. In 1931 application from Mr. A.T. Rostron to teach for salary of \$840.00 was

accepted.

Estimates of expenses for year ending Dec. 31, 1936 were: Teacher's salary \$900.00, official salaries \$40.00, debenture payments including interest \$211.20. Repairs to school house etc. \$75.00. Improvement of grounds \$25.00. School furniture and supplies \$150.00. Caretaking and fuel \$30.00. Insurance \$40.00. Total required by Fruitland \$1501.20. Estimated amount of grants \$160.00. Net and required by requisition \$1310.00. Amount required from Pioneer Municipality \$330.00 with an equal amount required from Liberty Municipality. This estimate was signed by H.S. Dunlop chairman and N. Dolling sec.-treas.

June 3, 1937 meeting.

It was decided to purchase a new flag for the school and receive tenders for painting it. A decision was made to pay for the destruction of pests at rate of 1¢ for magpie eggs. Magpie feet ½¢, gopher tails 1¢, crows eggs 1¢ and crows feet 1¢. Special prizes, First \$1.25 and 2nd 75¢ for the destruction of pests.

Miss Margaret Diercks was engaged as teacher at

\$840.00 per year, in August 1938.

Nov. 1941, meeting with all members present. It was decided to buy a piano and at a subsequent meeting in Dec. 12 new desks were to be bought, amounting to \$156.00. Janitor to be paid \$15.00 a



Fruitland School 1944

month. In 1941 Miss Diercks was rehired at a salary of \$1000.00. Mrs. John Diercks was secretary that year.

Some of the names of ratepayers were, Charles Moeller, M. Saugar, Theo Rapp, S.E. Bolton, S. Gitzel, William Melnik, A. Sommers, E. Gunsch, John Norris, David Porter, E. Ohrn, George McFarquhar, E.H. Lanpop, A.P. Hartman, Alfred Wallin, S.D. Maine, Andrew Olson, F. Schultz, W.P. Garrett, G. Schauer, Rinas and N. Dolling.

BILOU FAMILY

Submitted by Bill Bilou

Our Mother and Dad came to Edmonton in 1911 from Kisieline, Russia. They had 2 children, Ed and Chris when they arrived in Canada. Dad was a very talented blacksmith and worked in a shop in Edmonton. Otto was born in the city. After a time the family moved to Leduc where Dad started another shop. Mother helped in the shop when needed. Manuel, Tina and Bill were born in Leduc and attended school there. In March 1927 they sold their shop and Mother and the children moved to the farm, 4 miles north and one half mile east of the present town of Thorsby in the Fruitland district, the former Chegwin farm. It took us two days to make the trip with horses and sleigh. Dad went out to work for Fraser's saw mill west of Breton for two winters. He then came to Thorsby where his sons, Ed and Chris, helped him build a blacksmith shop, south of where Jack Arthur had his livery stable. The shop is the old Thorsby Electric warehouse today. He stayed there until 1941, when he sold his shop to John Hier. Dad passed away in 1945. Mother and us children farmed and cleared land with axe and grub hoe, breaking the new land with horses hitched to a breaking plow. The boys had to ask the neighbors for advice and had to do the work the best way they knew how. They also helped Mother milk cows, feed pigs and chickens. Mother had one sheep for wool for spinning, geese for feather ticks and pillows. She sold eggs for 5¢ a doz. and butter for 5¢ a pound, and took them by horse and buggy to Joe Hoffman's grocery store in Calmar where she exchanged them for groceries and clothing.

Otto, Manuel, Tina and Bill started school at the old Fruitland School on the east side of the Strawberry Creek hill on the Klemky farm now owned by David Gitzel, then to the new Fruitland School which is still standing on the Gaulter farm. Manuel and Bill went to Thorsby School for a short time.

Ed bought a farm in the Morrowdale district now owned by Bob Sontag. He married Ida Massner on February 13, 1934. They had 3 children; Esther, Doris and Ken. They then moved 2 miles north and 1 mile east of Thorsby onto the former Otto Bilou farm. Their children are all married. They have 4 grandchildren. Doris passed away on April 8, 1975. Ed



Sleigh riding on Weed Creek. Bill Bilou driving.



The Bilou Family. Taken in 1924 in Leduc where the IGA store is now located.



L. to R.: Bill Bilou, Manuel Bilou, Otto Bilou, Chris Bilou and Ed Bilou.

and Ida are retired and live in Leduc.

Chris went to work for the 4-X Bakery, Calgary, taking care of the horses and wagons that delivered the bread. He married Marie Hanson on August 20, 1933. They had 1 son, Gerald, and 1 grandson. They moved to Vancouver where he worked as a shipyard welder. Then Chris and Marie went to Buenos Aires, Argentina where he was a welder. He passed away there on June 23, 1959. Marie passed away March 11, 1961 in Vancouver.

Otto farmed northeast of Thorsby, on a farm he bought from Slim Province, for a few years until he married June Bradenberg, a school teacher. They moved to Malmo, south east of Wetaskiwin. They had 3 children - Tim, Judy and Dick. Then they moved to Fort Saskatchewan on a farm. They have 5

grandchildren. The new west part of the town of Fort Saskatchewan has been built on their ex-farm property. Otto passed away February 11, 1973. June still lives at the Fort. She has retired from teaching.

Manuel farms on the home place. He worked for 3 years in the pool room at Leduc for his uncle, George Neiman. In 1941 and '42 he was in the army stationed

in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Tina was married to Roy Klatt November 12, 1942. They first lived on Ernie Smith's place, then bought the Hudson Bay land, 4 miles south of Stone's Corner. They have 3 children - Harvey and family living on the Hudson Bay land, Ronald and wife living on the Wybert farm, and Marion and family living at Stump Lake, Saskatchewan. Roy and Tina have 5 grandchildren.

Bill farmed at home for awhile. He married Marie Dorn on November 20, 1942. They farmed for Fred Gunsch before moving to the Telfordville district 4 miles north of Sunnybrook. He bought the land from Fred Gunsch, which had been the Horechny farm. They have 2 daughters - Barbara and family living on the quarter east of the home farm, the old Daruda farm, and Linda and family live in their own home in Thorsby. Bill and Marie have 4 grandchildren. Bill is now married to the former Lillian VanAlstyne.

Mrs. Bilou moved into Thorsby from the farm and spent many years there in her own home north of the cheese factory. She moved to the Clover Leaf Manor in Warburg in 1976, soon after it opened and still resides there.

MICHAEL AND LAURA BITTNER HISTORY

written by Laura Bittner

My grandfather David Martin and his wife Ro Zenia (Paul) Martin came to Canada in 1895 from Wolynia, Russia. They came west as far as Calgary, to the end of their train journey and then by oxen and covered wagon to Edmonton. There was no road, just Indian trails to Edmonton, and all of their belongings were in the wagon. After arriving in Edmonton they looked for some land and Grandfather bought a quarter of C.P.R. land 9 miles southeast of the city for \$400.00 It was all in bush so they cut logs to build a small house.

A log church was built shortly afterwards which was of Moravian denomination. The district was called Bruderfeldt. In later years the church was enlarged and given a coat of stucco. The church still stands and is in good condition. Today the Salisbury High School is near it.

Their son David married Natalie Seigel and they were my parents. It was on this farm where my brothers, sisters and I were born and raised. We were: Charles in 1903; myself (Laura) born Nov. 25, 1904, Annie (Buss), Leonard, Herman, Johanna (Hender-



Hauling water at Bittner's.



Michael Bittner and Family of Thorsby.

son), Sadie (Kadatz), and Reinhold Martin. As I grew up, all the cooking and baking was done at home by the mothers and when I was about 12 I took Mother's place when she wasn't there. I washed clothes, cooked and baked. There was no Home Ec. class at school; we learned from our mothers. I was very capable and learned to spin, knit, sew and crochet. My folks had a dairy and we grew up on dairy foods.

On March 10, 1926 I married Mike Bittner and we moved to the Strawberry district to make our home.

Mike's parents were Ludwig Bittner, born 1860, died 1932 and Emelia Neiman Bittner, born 1870, died 1949. Their children were named Mike, Fred (these two were twins), Rudolf, Tillie and Pauline, They had lived in the same district as my grandparents in Russia and came to Canada in 1909. They moved to Calmar and in 1921 bought a farm 2½ miles southeast of Calmar which was school land and all bush at that time. Mike (later to be my husband) came to the Strawberry district in 1920 and bought a half section of C.P.R. land from Mr. Gitzel and rented it for 6 years.

In 1924, he bought another half section 4 miles north of where Thorsby would later be located. The next year he came out with 5 men and they cleared 118 acres. That summer, in 1925, Andrew Klemky and Karl Fandrick broke the land using a breaking plow pulled by horses. In 1926 we moved onto it to make our home.

In those years farmers went several miles west to the Strawberry Creek and mined their coal from its banks. The coal seam was close to the surface and wasn't very good. It didn't give much heat and left so many ashes, one had to empty the ashes every day. In later years Leslie Karsey opened a coal mine near Warburg and built a tipple so people could go there and buy their coal. His wife weighed the coal and kept the books for him. In 1978 the mine is operated by Bob Sarvas.

Some of the farmers hauled loads of the coal to Calmar and Leduc. They cut tamarack rails for posts and hauled them by the sleigh load to Leduc to sell for anywhere from 10 to 18¢ a rail.

Mike did some logging down along the river flats in 1931 and when he had the logs cut, hauled and piled he got Fred Grant from Telfordville to saw them into lumber. He sawed 95,000 bd. ft. most of it spruce but there was some poplar. After being sawed the lumber was dry piled and later hauled home from the river flats. He then had it planed, and, as everything was cheap in those days it only cost \$2.50 a M. for planing Lumber sold for \$7 to \$9.00 a M. but we didn't sell any. It was used for buildings on our farm.

We had a well on the farm but it only provided enough water for cooking. We drove the cattle down to the river to drink and hauled water from there for our use. In winter, snow and ice were melted for water. Most of the wells were dug, about 3 or 4 ft. square and just deep enough to get water. Because this was surface water, they would often go dry. When someone came into the district with an 18 inch boring machine many farmers had bored wells made.

Mike was elected as councillor in 1928, and was responsible for making some roads in this area. He used Fowler's equipment to cut down the Strawberry hill to build a better road.

When the hamlet of Thorsby was developing it was situated on low, wet muskeg type land. The C.P.R. had bought the land for the site from Mr. Schoonover and when the lots were surveyed the survey stakes were only set at the front corners. The people who bought them had a bit of difficulty establishing their boundary lines. There were several floods in those early years.

My husband saw the need for a doctor in the new town and he talked to some of the other men and they advertised for a doctor. They received 52 applications and one of them was from Myers Hankin, a young doctor who was interning in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. He was from Manitoba and had grown up on a small dairy farm there. When Mike read his letter of application he said. "This is our doctor. He has grown up on a farm and knows all about hard work". This choice proved to have been the right one as the years progressed.

With a doctor, and churches, there was also the need of a cemetery and Mike spoke of it to some others, including the ministers of the churches. They organized a cemetery and the land for it was given by Clee Hale a half mile east of Main Street. The first directors of the cemetery were, August Ruff for the Lutherans, Mrs. Asa Clark for the United Church, my husband to represent the town of Thorsby and Tom

Jablonski for the Roman Catholic Church. Since it was \$50.00 to register the title, he suggested the 4 lots be registered under one title. However, the priest would not agree go have the R.C. lot registered under the same title so the directors registered 3 under one title and the Roman Catholic lot separately.

Mike was a life member of the Board of Trade and helped to organize the Wheat Pool. He was also a life member of it and of the Farmers' Union. He could speak fluently in 5 languages and was very community

minded, striving to improve things in it.

We had 2 children, Norman David born Oct. 4 in 1928 and Margaret Inez born on Feb. 24, 1930. They were both born in Edmonton. They attended Fruitland School until Norman reached grade 9. Then they went to Thorsby with a horse until his last 2 years, when he drove a Chev car.

A fair was started in Thorsby in 1937 and it continued until the war years. I entered many exhibits in it and our children entered animals and garden vegetables. They were very excited. I won a lot of prizes and they won on everything they exhibited. It was hard to carry the exhibits in a horse drawn wagon over the rough road for 5 miles and have them arrive

for the fair in good shape.

Our new house was built by Jack Coleman in 1938. His labor was very cheap, 35¢ an hour and room and board. The house was a storey and a half with 4 bedrooms and a good sized living room, sun porch, bathroom and full basement. We had hot and cold running water. We had it wired and had our own power for 14 years before Calgary Power came to the community. The house was plastered and stuccoed on the outside. Rudolph Schmidt did that work and his price was 12¢ a square yard and it was very hard work. When the house was finished the carpenter was paid \$265.00. A house like it sold for \$3000.00. Roy Kvarnberg did the wiring. The house is still in really good shape and people live in it.

Mike retired from farming and we moved into Thorsby in Oct. 1957 and bought a house on the main street. The street was later named Hankin in memory of Dr. M. Hankin. We both loved flowers and beautified our grounds with many of them and lots of shrubbery. Mike passed away in Nov. 1969 and I still live in the house and keep busy. I have made over 50 woo'llen quilts in my lifetime, giving most of them away. I gave all of my brothers and sisters quilts for wedding gifts. I still do most of my own sewing and spend a lot of time with my garden and flowers.

Inez is very artistic and attended the Banff School of Fine Arts. She married Jerome Demuynck in June, 1952 and they moved to Leduc. She worked in the office of the school division there for 13 years until their only child was born. She has maintained her interest in many forms of art, oil painting, sketching and ceramics. She has won many prizes for her work. They now live in Dawson Creek, B.C. and she teaches painting and ceramics there.

Norman married Selma Fuss in 1957 and they



Wedding of Margaret Inez Bittner and Jerome Demuynck on June 30, 1952.



Charles Demuynck at 9 years of age.

have 3 sons. They live on the farm and raise beef cattle. Their sons are active in 4H club work. Wilfred, the oldest son presently attends university in 1979.

I mentioned the floods that used to happen in and around Thorsby. There wasn't much drainage and one year the water was so high in the hamlet that all the basements were flooded. The hotel basement was full of water. They took the windows out and we could see the water running right through the basement with junk floating about in the water. I think it was 1945 or 46 when some of the track washed out and the train couldn't get through to Thorsby. The stores ran out of some supplies. The trucks couldn't travel either, to haul groceries in.

One year Mike's mother came on the train to visit us and the baby chicks we had ordered came also. We went home in the democrat, holding the boxes of chicks on our laps with our feet up on the dashboard to keep them out of the water that washed over the floor of the democrat. My mother-in-law said she had never seen anything like it. The creek just north of Thorsby was so high, the water was running over the road and was very deep. We rode home, which was almost 4 miles, with our feet up on the dashboard holding the chicks.

NORMAN BITTNER AND FAMILY

I was born in Edmonton, Oct. 4, 1928. Our home farm then, is now known as the Thorsby Ski Hill. I started attending the Fruitland School in 1935 from the river farm. Our transportation consisted of horse and buggy in the summer and cutter in the winter. In the spring of 1936 my parents, my sister Inez and I moved to our present farm 4 miles north of Thorsby. After public school at Fruitland I took grades 9 to 12 in Thorsby. My teachers were Mr. Pailer and Mr. Lehmann.

I attended Olds School of Agriculture in 1949 and after graduation came home to farm with my father. In 1953 I started renting the home farm.

In 1956 I met a fine girl, Selma Fuss, at the then popular Sunnybrook dances. We were married in 1957. Selma, her sister Brigette and parents Mr. and Mrs. Julius Fuss, immigrated to Canada from Germany in 1949.



The Norman Bittner Family.

My wife and I were fortunate to be blessed with 3 healthy sons. Wilfred was born Feb., 1959, and the twins, Dwight and David were born in 1962. We had 3 children within 3 years. This was such a shock to me that I immediately bought more land to provide for my now LARGE family. This made one section of land to farm. My wife and children have made a valuable contribution to the success of the farm.

The boys have been members of the Thorsby Cubs and Scouts and active in the Calmar4-H Beef Club. Wilfred was a seven-year member of the club and was Junior Leader last year. Presently he is enrolled at the University of Alberta specializing in Plant Science. David and Dwight are attending Grade 11 in Thorsby and as a money-making project they have been raising 175 White Emden geese for the past 2 years.

I have always been interested in beef cattle and have fed several hundred steers at one time. Mr. Raymond Jehn and family moved their trailer to our farm in 1969 and Raymond was a most valuable

assistant in our steer enterprise until 1973. We presently have a herd of purebred polled Herefords.

I have been active in several community endeavors. The most important presently are the Buck Mountain Gas Co-op and the Thorsby 4-H Beef Club.

1978 has been a trying year. We received 30 inches of rain during the summer and the wettest Sept. on record. Many fields have not been harvested but they tell us that next year will be better.

THE CHEGWIN STORY

By Harry Dunlop

In the early days of the century James Chegwin and his wife Jennie came to Edmonton from Dundas, Ontario.

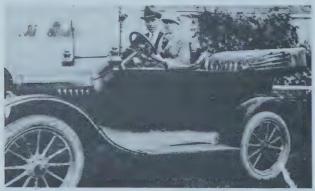
About the same time, their son Fred and his wife Mary came with their 3 children, James Fred, Margie and Jessie, also from Dundas. James was a blacksmith and Fred a moulder.

In 1905 they came to Weed Creek (now the Fruitland district) northeast of Thorsby, looking for land. James took the S.E. of 2, and Fred the S.E. of 12 in township 50. After a short time they went back to Edmonton and Sandy Lake. Fred worked for John Walters on his hay farm.

A few years later they returned to the homesteads. They swapped land and James started a fruit farm on the banks of the Weed Creek, where he raised strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, currants, garden huckleberries, plums, crabapples and others. He delivered the fruit to Edmonton with one of the old very high spring delivery wagons with 1 horse. After several years they went back to Ontario.

Fred's wife passed away and he continued to farm for several years with his daughter, Jessie. Margie married Archie Jones of Clover Bar. She passed away at an early age and Archie was killed in a train accident near Clover Bar.

On Christmas Day in 1918 Jessie and I were married in Edmonton by Rev. W.E. McNiven and have lived within a 22 mile radius of Thorsby ever since. On July 23, 1978 Jessie passed away.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dunlop Ford touring car, 1918.

James Fred enlisted and served through the first World War. On his return he took land at Unity, Sask. and farmed for some time. Later he was elevator agent there before coming to Alberta. He operated an elevator at Fawcett and at Duffield where he also raised mink as a side-line. While at Unity, he married Evelyn Taylor. When he retired they moved to Sidney, B.C. (about 1965). He passed away about 10 years ago and his wife 1 year ago.

THE IMRE CHINCHURAK FAMILY

By granddaughters Violet and Rosalie

Imre Chinchurak was born in the town of Pivnice, in Austro-Hungary on April 17, 1897. Kathleen Simon was also born in Pivnice on Feb. 3, 1903. They were married on May 7, 1919.

In the 8 years that followed they both worked hard farming and purchased a house. A daughter was born and the decision was made for Imre to come to Canada to work and send money home to pay for the house and farm.

So in 1927 Imre along with 7 other men from Pivnice immigrated to Canada on the ship, Ausonia. Three of these men stayed in Eastern Canada, 2 went to Stony Plain and 3 came to Thorsby. One of these was Joe Hemela.

In the spring of 1927 Imre started work for Jack Campbell of Strawberry as a farmhand earning \$12.50 a month. After two months he began brushing trees for Mr. Yaworki near Spruce Grove for \$35.00 a month. After this job he moved on to Lamont where harvesting was in progress. He stooked bundles for \$3.00 a day and threshed for \$4.00 a day. His first winter was spent in Edmonton working in the coal mine for 70¢ a ton. He worked the next 10 winters in the Edmonton coal mine. The spring and summers during that time were spent working as a farmhand for Jack Campbell and the Dollings. Then in 1931 he and Joe Hemela rented a farm on shares from Lyman Dunlop.

The talk in Europe was continually about war, so in 1938 they decided moving the family to Canada would be the wisest. Kathleen sold their property and taking only what they could carry, she and Julia sailed to Canada on the Empress of Australia. They docked in Quebec City, from there they went to Montreal by train, and west to Edmonton. Finally on June 18, 1938 they arrived in Thorsby.

The family continued mixed farming on the rented quarter and in 1944 Imre, who was by this time known as Mike, bought the quarter NE 23-49-2 W5 from L. Rickson for the sum of \$2,200.00.

There were 40 acres cleared with a house and a couple of granaries. Mike bought his first car in 1942. It was a 1929 Chev. He bought it in Leduc for \$200.00

A team of horses at that time could be bought for \$70 to \$100.00. At one point Mike purchased a team



Mike and Kathleen Chinchurak, Julia. The summer of 1938 when Kathleen and Julia arrived from Yugoslavia.

from Calmar for \$100.00. After 3 or 4 years he sold a horse in the spring to the fox farm for \$12.00 and the other one in the fall to someone for \$100.00. His daughter Julia learned to handle a team of horses rather well. As it turned out this was fortunate because in 1946 Mike contracted tuberculosis and was hospitalized for 6 months at the Aberhart Sanitarium.



Rudolf Stein threshing Mike Chinchurak's and Joe Hamela's in 1938.

Top row, R. to L.: Oscar Gunsch, Johnny Kadner, Otts Bilou, Mike
Chinchurak. Bottom row, R. to L.: Mrs. Chinchurak, Mrs. F. Klatt, Rudolf
Stien, Joe Hamela, Fred Klatt, Harry Meleshko and Albert Rinas.

On Dec. 30, 1949 Julia married Henry Ollenberg. They moved to the Flater farm near Telfordville for their first home. On Sept. 26, 1950 their first daughter Violet was born. The following summer they bought a quarter of land from George Pekarchik. Their second daughter Rosalie arrived on Dec. 15, 1951.

As time progressed, horses became outdated and in 1953 Mike purchased a new W4 McCormick tractor for \$1,750.00. Then in 1956 he again spent 7 months in the hospital as a result of tuberculosis. Mike and Kathleen continued to farm until 1965 when they retired to Thorsby.

In 1959 Henry and Julia moved to Hinton where Henry worked at a sawmill and on construction for 3 years. Then they returned to their farm and began renting the Karl Artindale quarter which they purchased in 1967.

On Oct. 4, 1968 Violet married John Borosewich of Alsike. A year later on Oct. 4, 1969 Rosalie married Garry Brewster of Telfordville.

Violet and John have 1 daughter Coreena born Dec. 3, 1971. Rosalie and Garry have 2 sons; Carlton born June 18, 1975 and Lucas born July 2, 1978.

Mike rented his farm out until 1973 when he gave it to his daughter.

Kathleen passed away Dec. 18, 1977 after a lengthy illness. Mike still resides in Thorsby, where at the age of 81 he is still very active. He spends his summers gardening. His speciality is cucumbers, and he manages to grow enough, weather permitting, to feed his entire family. His winters are spent knitting socks and mitts for his family, playing cards and visiting. He still drives and enjoys relatively good health in his retirement.



R. to L.: John Domshe, Mike Chinchurak, Joe Hamela, Mike Stephanition, Fred Klatt. Sawing firewood the winter of 1939.

HERMAN AND ROSA DIERCKS

submitted by Mary Rostron

In April of 1901 Herman Diercks and his brother, Jacob, arrived in Leduc by freight train from Lyman County, South Dakota, U.S.A. They brought with them a few head of cattle, farm implements and high hopes for a good life in Canada.

Later that year they filed claims on homestead land which lies along the south bank of the north Saskatchewan River and the Strawberry Creek in the area now known as the Fruitland district. They proceeded to build a log house, also a shelter for the animals.

Uncle Jacob passed away in 1903 and was buried in the cemetery at Leduc.

On July 10, 1904 Herman Diercks and Rosa Moeller were married in Leduc. They settled on the homestead quarter NW 13-50-1-W5 and later purchased the adjoining quarter NE 14-50-1-W5. Among my possessions are old receipts for taxes paid on this land for the years 1902 and 1903. The sum of two dollars per quarter for each year was mailed from the Leduc Post Office to the Department of Public Works, Local Improvement Branch at Regina, Saskatchewan. The receipts were issued from that office on October 21, 1902 and November 2, 1903 which was before the Province of Alberta was formed in the year 1905.

The years were filled with hard work clearing land by hand and caring for a family. Their first child, a daughter, was born in 1905 and was named Molly. In June, 1907 a son, John, was born in their pioneer home.

The country was being opened up then as Mother sometimes spoke of how in the early years she cooked many meals and packed lunches for the men who came to do the surveying of the country side. An incident she mentioned in connection with providing a meal whenever someone passed their way happened just after she had removed a batch of fresh bread from the oven. She quickly put a loaf on a plate to cool and set it where she thought it to be safe, that place being in the depression near the edge of the low sod roof on the house. Apparently the choice was a poor one for when she returned for the loaf she was just in time to see their two pigs running off with it, one carrying the loaf in her mouth and the other in hot pursuit. That day the callers had no choice but to eat warm bread with their meal.

After the road allowances were surveyed the settlers worked together to build roads with horse drawn scrapers and hand equipment. Many miles of cord road were laid across wet land in this new country.

Because there was such good range a large herd of cattle and horses were raised. More land was made productive and wheat and oats were grown. The nearest market place was Leduc so the cattle were driven to the stock yards there, a distance of 24 miles. Grain was hauled by wagon or sleigh over country trails and the Weed Creek was forded some distance north of where the present bridge crosses the creek on Highway 39 west of Calmar. Shopping for supplies was done in Leduc or another alternative was to go by sleigh in winter across the river ice to Stony Plain. A post office was established in the farm home of Herb Ohrn and was called Ohrnville. Births and deaths were registered there. Later Joe Hoffman opened a store at Calmar where groceries and hardware could be purchased.

As more families settled in the area there was some social life; community picnics were held, families gathered on winter evenings to visit. The men played cards while the ladies did knitting or sewed on garments for their children.

During the year 1911 a large frame barn was built on the farm with the help of neighbors. The lumber for it was from logs skidded from the river banks on the farm and a portable sawmill cut the lumber. A couple of years later in 1913 a frame house was built in the same way and as years passed, other buildings were erected.

From 1910 to 1912 supplies and equipment such as machinery was brought to the farm by way of the river on a steam boat to the farm. For years all the grinding of grain for people in the area was done with this horse-powered machine.

The first Fruitland School was built by the settlers

in the district in 1913. It was opened for classes with 16 pupils enrolled on January 1, 1914. Miss Martin was the first teacher. She boarded at the Diercks home as did a number of teachers who succeeded her.

There was an addition to the family in August 1914 when a second daughter named Mary was born. To complete thefamily, a third daughter named Margaret was born in December 1915.

In the years 1914 to 1917 Dad sold horses he had raised to the government, for the army overseas during the First World War. As time passed farming conditions improved and more acres were under cultivation. A large flock of sheep was developed as well as cattle and barnyard fowl. A Model T Ford car with a brass radiator became a prized possession in the summer of 1916. The mode of travel was thus improved and prompted trips to Edmonton and other points to see relatives and friends. Some of the rides were quite exciting, as Dad, interested in the country view, sometimes forgot to watch where he was driving and suddenly found the car was travelling in the ditch. He would automatically shout, "Whoa" to stop it. Nothing serious resulted from the detours he made.

A wonderful attachment was acquired to put on the motor of this car. It turned a mounted circular saw which cut the stove wood for our home. Dad also used it to cut wood for the neighbors. He owned one of the first threshing machines used in the early days.

When we were young children many were the happy hours spent with our cousins, the Charlie Moeller family, who lived on the farm next to us. Together we picked the bountiful harvest of wild berries such as strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, saskatoons, choke cherries, black currants, gooseberries, cranberries and moss berries which grew on the river banks. On a hot summer afternoon a swim in the creek on our return trip was most refreshing after picking berries. We shared dishes of home made ice cream topped with the delicious berries we had gathered. Bountiful vegetable gardens and flowers were always grown so a variety of food was plentiful.

In 1924 Dad and Mother rented their farm to Mr. L. Schoonover and moved their family to Leduc to try a different way of life. They obtained a government contract, and purchased a Chevrolet truck to haul the mail from Leduc to the Calmar Post Office, from there to the Conjuring Creek Post Office and delivered the mail on all the rural routes between, returning to Leduc by the south Town Line. In addition during the winter months Dad became caretaker of the curling rink. He learned to curl and to enjoy it very much. They bought their first radio during this time.

In 1929 it was decided to return to the farm as a railway had been built west from Leduc, and Thorsby came into being. This was only 7 miles from the farm. The grain elevators provided a closer market. Business places were opened so shopping in new stores became possible. Later the cheese factory opened and thereby provided a source of ready cash for milk especially during the depression era.

During the years from 1934 to 1939 the four children were married. Molly married John Sonnenberg. They have a family of four sons and now live retired on the farm near Leduc. Johnny married Doris Clark. They farmed for awhile, then lived in Thorsby for a number of years. Later they moved to Nanaimo and then to Victoria, British Columbia where they raised their family of 3 daughters and one son. Johnny passed away on November 28, 1978. Doris lives in their home in Victoria. I, Mary married Allan Rostron and lived in Mannville where Allan taught school and there our daughter, Carol, was born. Later we moved to Leduc where we are now retired. Margaret was married to Gordon Bentley. They lived in Thorsby for a number of years. They had a family of 2 daughters and one son. Margaret passed away on November 25, 1965. Gordon now lives in Leduc.

In due time Dad and Mother sold the farm and retired in Thorsby. Life was easier and pleasant there until Dad suddenly passed away on April 30, 1953. He was 82 years of age. Mother remained in Thorsby a few years during which time running water and natural gas were installed in the homes. A highlight for Mother came when she was asked to represent the Pioneers and turned on the flame for the Northwestern Utilities gas service in Thorsby.

Later she sold her home and moved to Leduc to be near her daughters Molly and Mary. The years were enjoyable and pleasant for her until her health failed. She passed away on June 19, 1975 at the age of 86 years

Mother and Dad are buried in the cemetery at Thorsby near relatives and neighbors who had also pioneered and broken the first ground in the Fruitland area.

ARCHIE AND ALTA DUNLOP AND FAMILY

The history of Archie and Alta Dunlop began with the histories of 2 well known Thorsby families. Archie, the eldest son of Harry and Jessie Dunlop, pioneers of the district, and Alta, eldest daughter of Gottlieb and Lydia Schauer, were married Sept. 25, 1940. The newlyweds spent the first year of their life together on the Charlie Orr place, south of Warburg. Archie's new bride came to the marriage with a good knowledge of home-making learned early in life, helping to care for 7 brothers and sisters after the death of her mother when Alta was only 13. Life was hard for the young couple but it was good, too.

Then, shortly before the birth of their first child, a serious auto accident put Alta in the hospital for months. While in the hospital, their first child, a son Melvin Austin, was born on June 20, 1941. When Mel was about 10 months old, the small family moved to N.W. 2-50-1-W5, 4 miles north of Thorsby, where they were to remain for many years, and where 2 more



Dunlop 4th Generation Group — 1941. L. to R.: Harry, William and Baby Mel, Archie.

children were to join the family. The house was big and old and rambling (a bit cold in the winter) but always home to all who stepped through its door and into Alta's kitchen.

This quarter of land had at one time been a market garden and had gone by the name of the Crescent Drive Farm. The reason for the name was quickly realized and never forgotten after one drive down the curved, tree-lined lane. The farm was dappled with groves of ash, maple, poplar, blue spruce, and a great variety of crab apple, cherry, saskatoon, and raspberry trees and bushes. Ralph Dunlop, an uncle of Archie's, can be credited for the green thumb.

During the early years of their marriage, Archie worked at John Powlik's garage in Thorsby to supplement his farming income. A second child, Marilyn Alta, 'flew in' on Oct. 31, 1943, during those difficult years with their shortages of this and that, their rationing and mostly the fears for loved ones away serving their country. One of Alta's brothers, Lester, was killed that year.

Archie would bring blocks of ice from the Strawberry Creek in the winter by horse and wagon. These were put in the ice house and covered with sawdust, etc. Presto! A refrigerator that would keep all perishables cool, all summer long. As an added bonus, the ice was used on hot Sunday afternoons to make home-made ice cream.

Much reading was done on the long cold winter nights. The Free Press Weekly and the Family Herald, along with books of all shapes and sizes, were treasured. Card games such as touring, checkers, and snakes and ladders were all a part of their evenings. In the summer there was always time for a swim at the swimming hole down at the Strawberry Creek (along with Tags the dog), or a family picnic at Pigeon Lake. Winter skating was done on sloughs that had been painstakingly cleared by shovel, and then skated on with a pair of shared boys skates (made to fit by variation of the number of socks you took off or put on).

During the years, Archie continued to work hard, both on his farm and on any outside work he could find. He worked on all facets of building and road construction and also did school carpentry for the County of Leduc. He was enumerator for the district

many times, returning officer at Fruitland School at election time, secretary-treasurer for the Farmer's Union of Alberta, and was area weather data collector for the U.G.G.

Both Melvin and Marilyn attended Fruitland School; Melvin in grades 1 and 2, and Marilyn in grade 1. They both remember their teacher, Mrs. Jenny Vaughan, with fondness. School concerts were something everyone looked forward to and everyone played a part. Dances and box socials were enjoyed by Archie and Alta, and these were family functions that everyone attended. Locals supplied the music, with the lighting by courtesy of a number of coal oil mantle lamps hanging from the ceiling. The old schools would literally bounce.

Both Melvin and Marilyn walked across the fields to school but more often than not, Alta walked with them. The walk got longer when the school closed about 1950, and the children then had to walk 2 miles to catch Ed Alton's bus heading into Thorsby. You could still see Alta trudging along between the kids on cold winter mornings. It always seemed to make the 2 miles shorter when she was along.

On March 28, 1951, another son was welcomed to the family. They called him Deryl William. It was lovely to have a baby in the house again. During the winters, Archie supplemented the meat supply with white fish from surrounding lakes (Pigeon, Buck, Wabamun, and Battle). He was an avid fisherman and always enjoyed it immensely. By the time Deryl was ready to start school, the school bus came a little closer to the farm, so the walk was shortened. Albin Markstedt was the bus driver then. In 1961, Melvin and Marilyn graduated together from Thorsby High School.



Melvin, Marilyn Deryl Dunlop, 1954.



Mr. and Mrs. Archie Dunlop Ocotber 1978.

In 1963, Archie and Alta left the farm and took up residence in Edmonton where Deryl finished school and Archie took up employment as a carpenter. He is employed in that trade at the time of this writing. Melvin and Joanne (Wilde) Dunlop and their 2 children Michele and Chris reside at Cold Lake, where Mel is a Sergeant with the Canadian Army.

Marilyn is married to Ordan Kisser and they have 2 sons, Jeff and Darren. They live on an acerage near Drayton Valley where Ordan is employed in the petroleum industry.

Deryl and Marion (Shank) Dunlop and their 2 daughters Peggy Sue, and Veroncia, live on a farm near Drayton Valley where Deryl is also involved in the petroleum industry.

Archie and Alta are living a happy and healthy life and have many nostalgic memories of their farming days. They have imparted a myriad of good memories and strong family bonds to their 3 children. Through the years these 2 people have been living proof to their children and others that a combination of hard work, love, and togetherness is the key to happiness.

HARRY DUNLOP FAMILY HISTORY

as related by Harry Dunlop

My grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Dunlop came to Canada from Ireland before 1861 and settled in eastern Canada. In the spring of 1905 my father William Dunlop, and my oldest brother Ernest came west from Kempton, Ontario to Leduc. My father worked there on the railroad with George Liggins.



1897 photo of W.S. Dunlop, Ernest, Middle Row: Austin, Ralph, Mother, sitting in front Harry.

Ernest worked for farmers and homesteaders clearing land. In October they went to Bittern Lake and Dad became section foreman and Ernest was a section hand.



William Dunlop, pioneer homestead 1909

On October 27th my mother Isabella, brothers Austin, Ralph and myself arrived. We attended school at Rosenroll, a mile south of Bittern Lake. It was named after A.S. Rosenroll, the member of parliament at that time.

In the spring of 1907 we moved 20 miles west of Leduc to a house on the N.W. 34-29-1 W5. It was then owned by James McIntyre and we lived there for 5 months while we built a house and stable. Moving out from Leduc we had our own team and double box wagon, 2 hired teams, 2 cows and a dozen chickens. As well as household effects, we had a disc-harrow which was our only machinery. I chased the cows behind and we stopped for dinner at Gitzels and stayed overnight at Ohrns.

We had no school until the fall of 1908, when the Telfordville school was built on my uncle Wesley's homestead on N.E. 20-49-1 W5.

The first summer we cleared enough land to seed about 3 acres of oats and when harvest time came it was cut with scythes. We boys tied 3 swipes with a stalk into a bundle and stood them into stooks.

That year we built a log house 18 by 24 feet, and also a barn. The timber was so heavy one didn't have to go far for logs. A sawmill was nearby and we got slabs there. The mill was owned by 2 men, Woods and Baker. Woods was a doctor who lived on a flat near Strawberry Creek. He would walk to see patients if a horse wasn't available.

In 1908 another sawmill moved into the district. It was owned by W.J. Dent and Bob Mahood. Their half section would later become the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clee Hale.

Rabbits were plentiful and we boys often hunted them as well as partridges. We sometimes were able to provide ducks for the table. Once a man ate rabbit at our place and afterwards complimented my mother upon her fine chicken.

After a few years we decided to obtain good quality breeding stock and this accumulated to a herd

of 20 Shorthorn cows, a few Hampshire sows and a pure-bred sire. We had 500 pure-bred Barred Rock and brown Leghorn chickens and Indian Runner ducks. In those days the milking of cows was all done by hand. With my brother Ralph as dairyman, each cow's milk was weighed separately and marked separately on a record sheet. On Sunday mornings individual samples were taken and put through a Babcock tester to determine the butterfat content of each cow. The loafers were quickly disposed of.

The chickens were all leg-banded. Trap nests were used and if there was no profit, they went to the butcher or the dinner table. With the hogs, individual litters were marked with a stamp. After 4 months they were weighed at regular intervals so their progress could be recorded.

Much of our stock was exhibited at the Leduc Fair. We sent vegetables and grain to be shown and they rated fairly high in prizes.

The year 1910 was very wet as it rained so much in May, June and July. My brother went to Leduc for supplies and the bridges were all washed out. The wagon pole broke and he didn't return home for 10 days. Groceries had to be wrapped in a water-proof cover in the bottom of the democrat as the roads were

In 1915 a man named S.D. Maine dug a well for us and the water gushed up. It was about 4 feet square and 28 feet deep. We used Jackpine logs for cribbing. A man named Sangster was instrumental in getting a party-line telephone into our area about 1916.

Entertainment consisted mostly of dances with Frank Mienke providing the music. My brother would take a team and leave at 2 p.m. to pick up the Fruitland school teacher, then to Telfordville to pick up that teacher and the VanAlstynes, Clayton Grant, Bertha and Nellie Floden, and then onto Stone's Corners to a dance. He used a box on the sleigh and put hay in it's bottom with boards running lengthwise for seats. They would dance all night and he would get home

about 7 a.m.

Picnics were held every year with the first ones on the Allio farm. Later they were held on the VanAlstyne farm on a flat east of their buildings.

Church services were held in the George McFarquhar home. I remember going to church services in a buckboard with 2 other men. When we crossed the Strawberry Creek, it was so high we had to hold our legs up to keep them out of the water. Once a student minister had to be warned to let his horse cross the creek at it's own speed. If he tried to hold it back it would have been swept away with the current.

My folks had 2 four-horse teams they had raised and I recall we raffled off a 3 year old buckskin for the Red Cross. I made 500 tickets and sold them for 10 cents each. It was drawn for at a dance west of Calmar and the proceeds were \$50.00. We gave the Red Cross half of it.

Roads were constructed with men filling slips with dirt and horses pulling the loaded slips to fill the holes up. I loaded slips for 13 teams when the road was being built to Telfordville. On Cut Foot Creek we moved dirt from the top of the hill to fill up the bottom for the road bed.

Angus McDougal owned a Percheron stallion and Herman Diercks also had one. The settlers raised their own colts and horses sold for a good price. We sold a team of dappled greys for \$125.00

Some of our neighbors were the McKenzie brothers who owned 3 quarters of a section. Farquhar, their father, owned the quarter south of us, which now is the home of Delaurice Smith. Many settlers used oxen in the early days. Farquhar boarded the road crew and once, when he needed supplies, John Martin made the trip to Leduc and back in one day.

Herman Diercks used horses to trample out grain and once in early May it took us from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. to go 6 miles to his place and have 3 bags of grain trampled out and return home. This was before we fixed up our own grinder.

Our dairy barn was equipped with a gasoline engine and lineshaft to operate a small grinder for cereals and to chop feed for our own use and to do some custom work. We pumped water, ran the cream separator and the churn. A tool grinder was also connected to it. My mother made butter and packed it into 8, 12 and 20 lb. wooden tubs. Later she made it in 1 lb. prints too. The butter was shipped to Edmonton and the price was usually 25 cents a lb. which was 10 cents higher than the market price. She had private customers and the butter was always shipped express collect.

Our main crop was Marquis wheat, Big Four oats and Beardless barley for feed.

My mother knitted many pairs of socks and mittens and it would be an evening's pastime. A kitchen was added on to our log house and in 1918 we acquired our first radio. It was a crystal set and one used earphones. Neighbors would come to listen to it, too.

Brother Austin enlisted with the 138th Battalion in 1916 and went overseas. He was killed in late October 1918. That year we purchased our first car - a brand new Ford touring car. We traded a buggy that we had gotten the year before for \$120.00 towards it. A set of harness in those days cost less than \$30.00.

On Christmas Day 1918, Jessie Chegwin and I were married in Edmonton by the Rev. W.E. McNiven. We continued to operate the farm on a smaller scale.

My parents left the farm and moved into Edmonton during the early 1920's and Jessie and I farmed several other farms in the Fruitland district including the Chegwin place. We raised a family of 3 boys; Archie, Walter and George.

In 1944 we moved into Thorsby and I took up carpentering with Jack Coleman for 3 years. Several of the buildings I worked on are still standing.

Our first home in Thorsby was where the Calgary Power office is now located. I sold it to our son and bought another house on an acreage from John Green, the barber in Thorsby at that time. I surveyed the acreage into lots and sold them for \$150.00 each and \$200.00 for a corner lot. Later I sold the house to Rudolph Rackway. Then, with the help of Alfred and Les Johnson we built a house in the southeast corner of town. That house still stands in 1978.

On June 12, 1947 I started as utility man for the Strawberry School Division. When they moved their office from Thorsby to Leduc I bought a house in Leduc, on the shore of Telford Lake near the Catholic church. We lived there for 7 years and then sold it and bought the Jordon Hill 2-room school building and converted it to living quarters and a garage. We lived there for 9 years and then moved back to Leduc to a house on 49 street and 52 avenue.

I tendered my resignation to the school board on October 18, 1965 and retired after 18 years, 4 months and 6 days. I had never laid off a day because of sickness in that time.

We lived in Leduc for 5 years until Jessie took sick and passed away in the summer of 1978. A little while later I sold everything by auction and moved into Cloverleaf Manor in Warburg. I may add that it is a most wonderful place to live.

Our 3 boys all grew up and attended school in Telfordville and Thorsby. Archie married Alta Schauers and they farmed in the Thorsby district for some years and then moved into Edmonton.

Walter married Leonora Hyland of Warburg and worked in the Thorsby cheese factory for some years. They then moved to New Norway where he operated a service station for 31 years.

George remained with us for a long time and now lives in the Michener Centre in Red Deer.

DAVID AND JOYCE GAULTER

by David Gaulter

In 1922, I was born in the house that my parents settled in after their marriage in 1919. Having helped my dad to feed cattle, raise sheep and pigs, break virgin land and clear it of roots before it could be seeded into cereal crops, I realized the heavy work farming entailed. In spite of poor prices, I found the fruits of our labours were rewarding in the end.

In 1937 and 1938, I belonged to a grain club and grew three acres of Red Bob's wheat, which shattered on the rack and had to be shoveled into the separator. It was propagated by the University of Alberta and was a big improvement on Garnet wheat for milling flour for bread making. In the spring of 1938, I won an award for my plot, sample of grain and judging. The result was a course for two weeks at the University of Alberta and I stayed at the Royal George Hotel, all expenses paid. There were young farmers from all over the province and I enjoyed the experience very much. We were driven by bus every day to the University for classes and also sat in on an agricultural meeting held upstairs in the old Hudson's Bay store. Mr. Pete Wyllie was District Agriculturist and leader of the club.

For high school, I stayed with my grandparents at Sandy Lake, two miles north and one mile east of Beaumont. After this, I helped Dad on the farm until I volunteered for the army at the end of 1942. During the war I spent time in England, Scotland, Italy, France, Belgium and Germany. I was wounded in Holland on April 12, 1945. After many months of hospitalization, I slowly recovered and despite the doctors' advice not to farm, felt it was the only life I wanted.

It was in 1946, during my time spent in the Col. Mewburn Pavilion, that I met my future wife Joyce Stone, who was doing volunteer work with a group of girls who were organized by Mrs. Arnold Taylor, to visit the wards and take around cigarettes and chocolate bars and do any necessary shopping for the patients. They also organized dances and box socials for the men, and the few women who had been in the armed forces. The gratitude of the patients, some of whom had been in the hospital from the First World War, was payment enough for the hours spent. During the war Joyce had also been a volunteer canteen worker at the Royal Canadian Legion canteen at the Prince of Wales Armouries.

The following is a little of Joyce's history. A great-uncle, James Stone, came out from England with the Barr colonists and settled at Blackfoot and in 1910, Joyce's father joined him. Two years after, her grandparents and aunt came over but they decided to settle in Edmonton. Her father worked on the survey crew, building the Canadian National railway west through the mountains. He went overseas with the 49th Regiment in the 1st World War and while in hospital after being wounded, he met his wife-to-be,



Charles Gaulter on his horse.



L. to R.: Herb Gaulter, David and Joyce (parents) Suzanne Matras and Gillian Miller in 1977.

who was a nurse. They were married in England, then came to Edmonton. At the outbreak of World War II, Mr. Stone joined up once more and served with the rank of Captain. Joyce's brother volunteered for active service with the army when he completed his final year of high school and was a Canadian officer on loan to the British army. After the war he went back to join the British Army, from which he is now retired with the rank of Major. He also married an English girl.

Joyce received her education in the Separate and Public school systems in Edmonton. She attended McTavish Business College, then worked as a secretary in the Forestry Branch of the Department of Lands and Forests.

We were married on June 22nd, 1949, by Archdeacon Trendell in All Saints' Cathedral in Edmonton, the same church where my parents had been married thirty years before.

After a two week honeymoon at Vancouver, we settled down to a routine farm life and Joyce enjoyed the country living. My brother Charles lived with us and during the summer Mr. Jolleff, who had worked for Dad, continued in the same capacity. We still used horses in the field work, Charles being an expert with them. He was a well-known sight astride his horse Rusty. There was a lot of work to keep us busy with the Angus cattle, pigs and sheep, but there were happy times to help pass the days. Then in June of 1950, our daughter Suzanne was born and eighteen months later on December 21st, 1951, Herbert arrived.

In December, 1952, Charles was killed, and suddenly we were without his ever cheerful presence. Despite the shock and added work load, I had to keep going and Joyce was called on to drive the tractor while I was on the binder at harvest time and help with other

tasks on the farm. We gradually got rid of the horses. Mr. Jolleff didn't work for us now, we had different hired help. My sister Grace was a big help during her holidays, raking with the horses during hay time and sometimes driving the tractor. This was a hard period for us.

The winter of 1955-'56 had a record snowfall with flooding in the spring. In March, 1956, Gillian May was born and Suzanne started school in Thorsby.

On March 22nd, 1961, we lost our home by fire and we learned what wonderful neighbors and friends we had. We then bought the S.E. 12-50-1-W5, which had a good house and buildings, making a whole section to farm.

The children received all their schooling in Thorsby. In 1968, they were confirmed by Bishop Clark in St. Paul's Anglican Church, Leduc. Herbert belonged to the Calmar Cubs. He also joined the Buford 4H Grain Club with John Weiting as leader. At an early age Herbert was interested in mechanics and worked at Weed Creek Service Station when he was fourteen. Then he was employed on the oil rigs as a roughneck also felling trees for a pipeline. He decided gravel hauling was more to his liking, so at eighteen bought his first truck. His occupation is still trucking. He has his own business and he and his wife Mary, live in their own house in Leduc with their three daughters.

Suzanne was a member of the Buford 4H Garden Club and then the Buford 4H Sewing Club. Mrs. Wanda Markstedt was the very able leader and the girls and mothers spent many informative hours at meetings. After she graduated from Thorsby High school, Suzanne completed a business course at Alberta College and since has been employed as Cashier for the Treasury Department. She and her husband Don Matras live in a house they built in Edmonton.

Gillian, when she was old enough, also joined the Buford 4H Clothing club under Mrs. Markstedt's leadership. She enjoyed this very much and has found the experience gained very beneficial. She belonged to the Thorsby Guide Company under the leadership of Mrs. Barry Gibson. She looks back on these years with the Guides with pleasure. She is married to Wilfred Miller and they live in Edmonton. Gill is presently employed at the Good Samaritan Nursing Home, a position she enjoys very much.

Through the years we have maintained a purebred herd of Aberdeen Angus. This makes sixty years of continuous breeding of this stock on the same farm. When we moved to our present home, we had to give up raising sheep, as due to the heavy bush, coyotes took a heavy toll. We have been witness to four attacks on young calves and have managed to shoot or scare off the marauders.

As we approach our thirtieth wedding anniversary, we hope to remain on the farm as long as health allows, keep busy, maybe do a little travelling but most of all enjoy our grandchildren.

THE WILLIAM MASON GAULTERS

I was born on November 14, 1876, in Stretford, Lancashire, England. My mother's maiden name was Annie Smith and my father was William Mason Gaulter. He was a stonemason by trade, carving some of the lions for the Manchester Exhibition. My mother passed away when I was nine years old, so my grandmother and an aunt and uncle were my guardians throughout my childhood. I received my schooling for one year in a private school, then five years with a private tutor. My final education was received at the Manchester Grammar School.

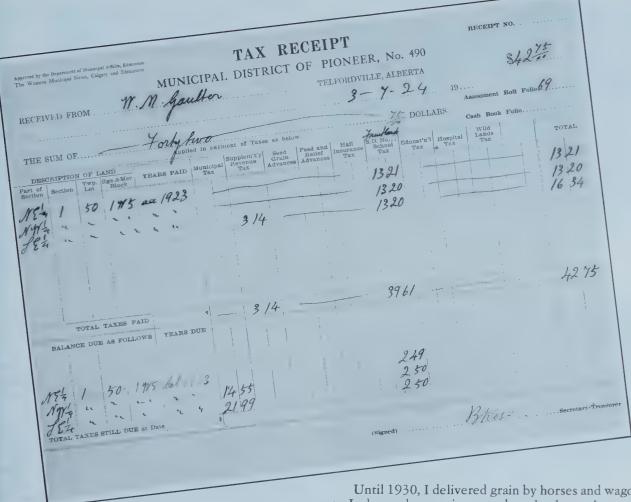
For four years I apprenticed in a grocery store. After this, I went into business with my brother Ted, managing two grocery stores which had been bought by my aunt and uncle. I was left to manage on my own when Ted left for the Klondike Gold Rush. In 1899, I sold the stores to enable me to enlist in the Royal Army Medical Corps. I trained in Aldershot and three months later was shipped to Africa where I fought in the Boer War until 1903. After the war I worked in the grocery business for almost a year, then left for Canada in February, 1904. From Winnipeg it took five weeks to reach Edmonton, due to blizzards. Men were digging snow from the tracks to allow the train to run. It was April when I reached Strathcona. I went into farming with Frank Scott, buying a farm twelve miles southeast of Edmonton.

After one year of partnership, I took over the farm myself until 1916, when I rented the farm to Mr. Bert Andrews, (uncle of my future wife). At that point I enlisted in the First World War, with the Royal Artillery, 78th Field Battery, a Red Deer Regt. and trained in Lethbridge, Petawawa, Ontario and Aldershot, England. I then entered the war in France near Arraz.

The war finally ended in 1918, and I stayed in England until the spring of 1919, when I came back to my farm and married the neighbor girl, Margaret Frances Ellett, on September 10th, 1919. The ceremony was performed by His Lordship Bishop Gray, assisted by the Rev. E. Pierce-Goulding, in All Saints' Pro-Cathedral. We left by train for a month long honeymoon in San Francisco, where my brother Ted and his wife were living and he was employed at the Foreign Office.

My wife's grandparents came from England in 1893 with some of their family. It was her grandmother Mrs. Andrews, who named the districts of Salisbury and Colchester on the outskirts of Edmonton. Her father, Charles C. Ellett, came to Canada in 1885, and settled twelve miles southeast of Edmonton, which at that time had a population of two hundred people. Mr. Ellett was one of the earliest producers of Aberdeen Angus cattle, purchasing his first herd in 1896. He held the Alberta and possibly the Dominion record for owning the oldest continuous herd of purebred cattle.

When we returned from our honeymoon, we





Mr. and Mrs. William Gaulter on their wedding day.

settled on a three-quarter section farm, six miles northeast of what later became Thorsby. I had sold my land south of Edmonton to my father-in-law. Our farm luckily had a house already built on it. The previous owner was Mr. Jim Smith whose wife was formerly Miss Chegwin.

Our mailbox was one and a half miles south, on what was then called the Blind Line now Highway 39. Mail was delivered twice a week when the mailman travelled from Leduc to Calmar to Telfordville.

Until 1930, I delivered grain by horses and wagon to Leduc and groceries were bought there. A wagon box would hold sixty bushels. This journey took a day there and one back if the roads were good.

We raised on an average eighty Berkshire pigs, forty Aberdeen Angus cattle, forty to fifty Suffolk sheep, together with chickens and geese. The herd of cattle was started from animals bought from my father-in-law, Charles Ellett. Prices were low, hogs sold for \$3.00 to \$5.00 each, lambs for \$3.00 to \$4.00 each and at Ralph Dunlop's sale in June, 1936, I paid \$9.00 for a purebred dual purpose Shorthorn milk cow. Alex Riddoch was the custom trucker who hauled our livestock to Gainers or the Edmonton Stockyards. Mr. Harry Jolleff remained with us as our hired hand from 1924 through all the years, until we left the farm.

On May 31st, 1920, a son Frederick Ellett Gaulter was born. On August 20, 1922, our second son David William arrived and three and a half years later on April 12, 1926, a third son Charles Edwin was delivered in Leduc. In the fall of 1928, at the age of eight years, Freddie passed away. On February 17, 1936, a daughter Grace Ann joined our family.

The children received their early education at Fruitland school which was built in 1930, on the NW 1-50-1-5. I had donated three acres to the County of



William Gaulter's first car, a 1917 model stuck in the mud in the Fruitland district.



W. Gaulter and Charles loading sheep in 1929.

Leduc, so a school could be built. David took Grades nine and ten at Sandy Lake school, Charles went to Thorsby High school and Grace attended Leduc High school and graduated from Salisbury High school, after which she attended Business College in Edmonton

The Second World War started in 1939, and in 1942, we were both proud and anxious as David enlisted and went overseas. He was critically wounded in Holland on April 12, 1945, and after hospitalization, was eventually brought back to Canada in a hospital ship, train and admitted to the Col. Mewburn Pavilion. Here he was operated on several times and spent the next year and various periods after in hospital.

In April of 1949, we moved from the farm, thirty years after we had come to it and went to live in the Sandy Lake area with Margaret's widowed mother. On June 22, 1949, David married Joyce Stone of Edmonton, and they continued to live in the house where we had raised our family and carrying on with the farm with his brother Charles. Tragedy struck in December of 1952, when Charles was killed in a truck accident on the farm, leaving David and Joyce to carry on with the farming operation.

In due course we were blessed with two

granddaughters and a grandson, Joyce and David's children. On May 12, 1956, our daughter Grace married John Beloglowka of Vilna, and they gave us another two granddaughters and two grandsons in the following years.

In the summer of 1956, my mother-in-law Mrs. Amy Ellett, suffered a stroke and passed away in the following October. Peggy (Margaret) and I then moved to our aparment house in Leduc, after living in the Sandy Lake area for eight years. I had bought the house eight years previously, knowing that someday we would probably spend our remaining years there.

The above account of the life of William M. Gaulter was written by David and Joyce Gaulter, based on his reminiscences dictated to his daughter Grace in January, 1967. Dad passed away on July 11, 1967, in the Leduc Hospital at the age of 90. Mrs. Gaulter now resides in Valley View Lodge in Vermilion, where her daughter Grace, son-in-law John and family have a home.

MATILDA (TILLIE) GITZEL

written by Laura Sommers (daughter) as told by my mother, with contributions from Elsie Hoffman (daughter), Fred Gitzel (son), and Martha Snider (daughter).

Tillie was born on Aug. 7, 1880 in Wolynia, Russia. In 1885, she moved with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gotlieb Shutschneider, to Kitchener, Ontario. In 1887, the family moved to Detroit, Michigan. Tillie was depended upon to look after her younger brother and sisters while her mother took in washing and ironing. In later years, she taught herself how to read the German script and was then able to read the Bible and prayer books, and sing from the German hymnal. She also learned to write her name, but felt shy in writing it on any document so she signed all her papers with an "X".

Although Tillie worked hared at her tasks at home, she loved Detroit. She had also become engaged to one of the local boys and was very happy. In 1895, her father decided to move back to Canada. They went to Waterloo County, Ont. where they stayed for a short time before heading west. It was early spring but the weather in Eastern Canada was warm and pleasant. On arriving in the west, they found extremely cold weather and snowdrifts everywhere. the family stood there shivering, Tillie couldn't help but wonder what a God-forsaken country they had come to. She vowed that she would find a way to go back to Detroit. To go back would not be easy, for her Father firmly believed that to "spare the rod was to spoil the child". Each member of the family was expected to do as they were told no matter what their age. After arriving, Tillie found employment in the small hamlet of Strathcona. At that time the places of business consisted of a store, a Post Office, a brick



This Form to be retained by the Farmer.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT

FARMERS AND PRODUCERS

between matilatic gitzill Post Office They slow
Producing at Thoustage As Owner? Owner
As Lessee?
Occupation danner
and the ALBERTA GOVERNMENT (Trade and Industry Department).
WITNESSETH:
(A) That the Farmer or Producer hereby covenants, promises, and agrees as follows:
(1) To produce as much as possible of products to be consumed in Alberta, or elsewhere if there is a surplus.
(2) To co-operate with the Alberta Government in planning the supply of products required for the Province, and the prices at which they will be sold.
(3) To sell at least 50% of his products, over and above that required by himself or his immediate dependents, within Alberta for Alberta Credit, when called upon to do so, provided the price allowed is at least equal to the General Market Price.
(4) To make all reports of sales or purchases and other information promptly when required by the Alberta Government.
(5) To make no demand nor claim at any time for payment in Canadian or Bank Currency of Alberta Credit held by him.
(6) To tender no Alberta Credit in payment of Provincial taxes, licenses, royalties, fines, etc., until such time as the Alberta Government shall be able to accept all or part on the taxes, etc.
(7) To deposit, in case a bonus is given in any sale of surplus products, the proceeds of the sale together with the bonus, in the Credit House of the Alberta Government.
(B) The Alberta Government promises, covenants, and agrees as follows:
(1) To encourage Alberta producers by establishing and maintaining a just price for Alberta products so that the producers may be assured a fair commission above the actual cost of production.
(2) To increase to the greatest extent possible the sale of Alberta products by issuing Alberta Credit in dividends and otherwise which is intended primarily for use in purchasing Alberta- made goods, and products, and the payment of services rendered.
(3) To give, from time to time, bonuses in Alberta Credit to the Alberta Producers so that they may be able to compete on the World's Markets in the sale of their surplus products.
(4) To assist the Farmer or Producer by granting interest-free loans, in Alberta Credit, on such terms and security as shall be mutually agreed upon, not exceeding 2% for administration charges, for use in production of Alberta goods.
(5) To organize feeding associations, commission merchants or other agencies for the purpose of exchanging for the producer his surplus products and importing goods not made here.
(6) To redeem, when possible, Alberta Credit with Canadian Currency for the purpose of ma- chinery replacement, change of residence outside the Province, travelling, and other essential requirements.
These promises, covenants, and agreements are accepted and affirmed by me this day of 19.1 (
In Witness whereof I have signed this Agreement in the presence of:
Witness: RC Froy matellix Sitzel
+

factory, a livery stable, a shoe maker, and a black-smith shop. Tillie did household duties while the lady of the house worked in the store. She received \$1.00 a month in wages. On pay day, her father would come to collect the pay and give her just enough for the barest necessities. Tillie still planned to go back to the States, so she saved every penny her father gave her. She made her shoes and stockings last longer by going barefoot. She only wore shoes to church or on special occasions. Many young men came to court her but she didn't encourage any of them because to get involved with a man would mean the end of her dreams of returning to the States. The next year she went to work as a cook at the brick factory. The pay was better but her father would still come on pay day to collect the money. She saved for 3 years to get enough money for the train fare back to the States. When the time came to leave, she felt that she could not go without letting her parents know where she had gone. She told her brother to tell her parents after she had left, but he immediately told his father of her plans. Tillie's father then took away all the money she had, thus ending her chances to fulfill her dream. Her father was very angry and immediately set about finding a husband for her. He considered it his duty to find his daughter a husband that he approved of, for he thought that she was an old maid at the age of 19. He found a widower with 6 children for her to marry. So Tillie found herself married to a man she barely knew and an instant mother to 6 children. The youngest boy, Otto, was 1 year old, and the eldest daughter, Lizzie, as the same age as Tillie.



The Gitzel Family. Standing from L. to R.: Steve, Fred, Ida, Bill, Bertha Sommer. Seated: Mr. Steven Gitzel holding Elsie Hoffman, Tillie Gitzel holding Martha Snider. Picture taken in April, 1917.

On Jan. 28, 1905 another son, Frederick (Fred) was born. The family liked the Leduc area, but the draw that crossed their farm caused problems. In the spring the cows would cross the draw and by night the family could not get them back because of the high water from the run-off. Steven would make culverts from logs, but the high water would keep washing them away. He decided to find another quarter of land. Most of the land around Leduc had been bought

by this time, so he headed west with oxen and wagon. Land in the Calmar area was passed by in those early years, because the flat lands had no drainage, and any one daring to leave the Blind Line (that was corduroy most of the way) found himself helplessly mired down in the mud. Steven came to the Fruitland area and found land he liked very much overlooking the North Saskatchewan River N.E. 13-15-1 W5. He sold his farm in Leduc and moved his family to their new farm, which they all liked at once. Wild fruit grew everywhere. Strawberries, raspberries, chokecherries, saskatoons, pinchcherries, black currants, dew berries, moss berries, cranberries and blueberries could be found a short distance away. The area was well-named. The post office was at Main's, about 2 miles from their farm, now the David Gaulter place. The people living in the area at the time were the Saugerts, Mains, Moellers, and Diercks. To the west lived the Logans, Huggets, McFarquhars, and Erdys, and to the east lived Tom Robinson.

After moving to the Fruitland area, another 4 children were born. Bertha was born in Aug., 1908, Steven (Steve) was born June 19, 1910, Elsa (Elsie) was born Apr. 17, 1913, and Martha was born January 7, 1916. As the children became of age, they attended the Fruitland School which was situated on top of the Strawberry Hill.

The walking plow and oxen were still used for a number of years. Herman Diercks was one of the first settlers to use horses. He had been a horse rancher in the States and when he came to Canada, he brought a fine string of horses with him. Charley Snider also used horses when he came to the area around 1911. It was sometime after this date that Steven decided to change over to horsepower.

One of the highlights for the Gitzel children was to watch the Walters Steamer that came upstream from Edmonton to the stone quarry. The stone was transported to the city and used for building. Sometimes the river boat went upstream as far as Poplar Creek, now know as Berrymore. Fred loved to watch them bring the log barges downstream, usually done in June. The strangest cargo that came in with Walters Steamer was the time it pushed a flat rack in front, on which was loaded a 15-45 steam engine and a 28 inch Case separator. This cargo went to the Cropleys in the Genesee area.

On April 26, 1917 Steven Gitzel passed away. He was buried in the Community Cemetery next to the Blind Line. Tillie's step-children were all on their own by this time. Lizzie had moved to Oregon. Maggie married Mr. Alexander and after his death, she married George Hanson and they lived at Michigan Centre. Gustoff married Elizabeth Ulmer. After her death he married Lydia Forester and they lived at Spruce Grove, Wembly, and Grande Prairie. Emma married Karl Knull and they lived at Calmar. Art moved to Arcanum, Ohio. Otto married Emma Shram and lived at Spruce Grove and Debolt. After Steven's death, Tillie carried on with the help of the children.



TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT

ALBERTA CITIZENS' REGISTRATION COVENANT

I, motifalie Gatient and agree as follows:—

hereby covenant, promise

- (1) To co-operate most heartily with the Alberta Government, and with my fellow citizens of the Province of Alberta in providing food, clothing and shelter for every one of us.
- (2) To work whenever possible, and to accept my remuneration in Alberta Credit as far as I can reasonably do so. In the event of receiving the whole or the greater part of my income in Canadian Currency, I shall exchange as much of it as is convenient for Alberta Credit.
- (3) To make no claim nor demand, at any time, for payment in Canadian Currency, of Alberta Credit held by me.
- (4) To tender no Alberta Credit in payment of Provincial taxes, licenses, royalties, fines, etc., until such time as the Alberta Government shall be able to accept all or part on the taxes, etc.

In return for my agreement, I understand that the Alberta Government covenants and agrees as follows:—

- (1) To establish, as early as possible, and maintain a just rate of wages with reasonable hours of labour.
- (2) To grant interest-free loans in Alberta Credit on such terms and security as shall be mutually agreed upon, not exceeding 2% for administration charges, for the building of a home or the establishment of the Registered Citizen in his own enterprise if conducive to the economic requirements of the Province.
- (3) To give monthly dividends to all registered Alberta Citizens, and to increase the same as the total production of the Province will allow.
- (4) To redeem when possible, Alberta Credit with Canadian Currency for the purpose of allowing the member to take up residence outside the Province or for other essential requirements.

With full understanding of these several declarations, I gladly enter into covenant with the Alberta Government and with my fellow citizens.

In witness whereof I affix my signature in the presence of

Witness:

Signed:

As the bride of Mr. Steven Gitzel, she went to her first home in the Stony Plain area in 1899. Steven Gitzel was hard-working, fair, and honest. He was also very religious and tried to live his life according to his beliefs. Tillie came to respect and like him very much. She well-remembered the first money Steven earned after they were married. He kept half for outside expenses, and gave the rest to her for household expenses. This was the first time in her life she had money of her own to spend as she wished. She remembers going about the house trying to make the best use of what little money she had. There were so many things that were needed. Finally she made her decision. The younger step-children had such ragged clothes for church, so she bought material and sewed them oufits by hand. She knew she had made the right decision when she saw that the children were so proud of their new clothes in church the following Sunday.

In the spring of 1900, the family moved with oxen and wagon (via Edmonton) 5 miles west of Leduc - now the Bill Wiesner place. On August 10 that same year, Ida was born.

Life was hard in those days, and when work could be found, Steven worked for 50¢ a day while Tillie kept things going at home. On August 10, 1902 a son, Benjamin William (Bill) was born.

During this time, church services were held at different homes in the area, but if weather did not permit going out, Steven would conduct services at home in the morning. He also conducted church services when there was no minister present, at the regular services. He helped build the Gnadenthal Church (Grace Lutheran Church). Both Steven and Tillie were original members of that church.

Work on the farm was all done by oxen and breaking was done with a walking plow. A pit was dug in the yard and covered with sticks and green hay. When the rabbits came to eat the hay, they would drop in the pit and provide the family with their main supply of meat. They raised hogs and some cattle. Milk from the cow was put into a creamer. This was a tall can with straight sides, a slanted bottom, and a drain spout on the side of the can near the bottom. The milk was hung in the well to chill. When it had chilled, the spout was opened to drain off the skim milk. When the cream came to the bottom, the spout was shut. The cream was churned into butter with the old dash churn. The extra butter the family didn't use, was packed into wooden tubs and traded for groceries at the store in Leduc. Chickens were raised for eggs and meat and a large garden was always planted. Extra potatoes and mangels were sown, to be cut up and fed to the milk cows in place of grain. They were also cooked in a 45 gallon cast-iron kettle with a little grain added, and fed to the pigs. In late fall, a 45 gallon wooden barrel was filled with cabbage for sauerkraut and stored outside all winter. Butchering was also done in late fall so that the meat could be kept frozen. In early spring, when more butchering was done, the meat was salted down and then smoked. It was then put in clean flour bags

and dug into the wheat to keep cool, or put in the root cellar.

Ida was married and on her own, so she had 6 children left at home, ranging in age from Bill, who was 17 to Martha who was just a baby of 4 months. In 1918 during the 'flu epidemic, Bill was the only one to contract the sickenss. He was very sick but through his mother's care, he fortunately recovered.

Around 1923, Tillie married Gustoff Geske and the family moved to Hay Lakes. A daughter was born there but she died in infancy.

Around 1924 Tillie bought the N.W. quarter of 13-50-1-W5, from Rudolph Bittner. There were 35 acres broken on the farm and the price was \$800.00 with 8% interest. That year they had a bumper crop on the land and the price of wheat was good, so they planned to pay off the mortgage that year. Mr. Geske went out to sell enough grain to pay the taxes. He sold all the grain, then set up his moonshine still and cooked the whole proceeds of the grain into moonshine. That ended Tillie's dream to pay off the farm. She packed and moved her children back to Fruitland area. They stayed with the Strochein family until Tillie's father and the boys built a big granary. They then moved into the granary. Mr. Rust Lind was hired to build a house the same year. On Jan. 20, 1925, I (Laura) was born. Mom became very ill after I was born. She was not expected to live, but under the good care of Christina Knopp, who had been the midwife when I was born, she was nursed back to health. The Knopps then lived on the farm that now belongs to Mike Wasyliw. What an angel of mercy Mrs. Knopp was! Although she had a large family of her own to care for, she helped others who needed help.

Life was hard for Mom trying to get established on the farm. Without the help of Steve and Fred, she never would have managed. The boys each had their own trap lines in winter providing the only money they had. Bill's first rifle was a 30-30 Marlin which cost \$18.00. Fred's first rifle was a 38-55 Winchester and Steve had an octagon-barreled 32 Special Winchester. Mule deer were plentiful in those days but there were no whitetails in the area.

Bill was on his own by this time, and took up a homestead in the Holburn area. In the summer, he washed gold along the river and each winter he tended his trap line. In 1927, Steve had an accident while the boys were breaking land. He was in the hospital for some time, and came out with a crippled knee.

With the coming of the railroad in 1929, there was a lot of excitement and rejoicing because Thorsby became the new hamlet and brought the convenience of a shopping centre only 7 miles distant from the farm. The trip took only a short time with horses and democrat.

Then came the dirty thirties, a time that no one who lived through it will forget. Prices for farm produce dropped to rock bottom. Fred took a load of barley to the elevator, about 60 bushels, and got enough money to buy 2 four-light windows measuring

8 by 8. Pigs sold for \$2.50 a piece. Fred also sold 2 sheep in the depression years. He had to pay \$1.00 to boot to pay for the trucking. Wheat sold for 15¢ a bushel; barley sold for 6¢ a bushel, and oats sold for 9¢ a bushel. The cost of Holland binder twine was \$3.00 a bag (6 balls). In 1931, eggs sold for 3¢ a dozen and cream sold for 85¢ for a five-gallon can. Our family was hard-pressed for money just as everyone else was. Both Steve and Fred worked through harvest time at the threshing machine. Steve worked with a team of horses hauling bundles and Fred usually worked as spike pitcher or field pitcher. In this way the threshing bill was usually paid for by their labor which helped out a great deal. In winter the boys had their trap lines for an income. Rabbit skins sold from 10¢ to 20¢. After the harvest the first load of wheat went to the elevator in exchange for flour-usually 15 to 20 hundred pound bags, 50 lbs. of rolled oats, and 50 lbs. of cream of wheat. The next wheat sold usually went to J. Rolston's grocery store. There just never was enough money to make payments on the farm, and the mortgage collector was forever hounding the place. Before times got a little better, the amount owing on the farm had gone from \$600.00 to \$3000.00. In 1935 eggs had gone up somewhat in price - a 15 dozen crate of eggs brought 73¢.



Fred Gitzel with some of his coyote caught in his trap line.

It was around this time that Mom stepped on a rusty nail. She always went barefoot from early spring until snowfall. Infection set it and Dr. Hankin was called. He diagnosed it as blood poisoning and instructed Steve to take here to the Royal Alex hospital in Edmonton to have her leg amputated. Mom absolutely refused. She said that she would never go to the grave with only 1 leg. If she was to die, then so be it, but she would never have her leg amputated. All her friends who heard of her plight came to see here and each one came with a different home remedy. Each piece of advice was tried. It was a miracle that Mom recovered, but it was even more of a miracle that she survived all the remedies that were tried on her! When you are desperate you will try anything - the foot was soaked in hot strong salt water about 4 times a day; poultices were made with bread soaked in milk, unsalted fat side pork (no lean), clean axel grease and



The Gitzels on Mothers Day, 1960. L. to R.: Elsie Hoffman, Laura Sommer, Fred Gitzel, Mother Tillie, Steve Gitzel, Bertha Sommer and Martha Snider.

fresh cow manure. Each poultice was put on the entire foot and wrapped in clean scrubbed Plantain leaves that were soaked in cold water, and then the foot was wrapped in bandages. After many weeks the poison began to drain but she was unable to get around for most of the summer. After the fever passed, Mom crept around on hands and knees to do her work. By the following spring, the foot had healed.

In the late '30's Bill left the Holburn area and took up a homestead in the Fishers Home area. Fred also started to homestead there. In 1940, Steve bought the home place from Mom. Mom kept 15 acres in the northwest corner and had a house built there. Mother and I kept chickens and 3 cows. Our income for a year was \$250.00. Out of this Mom needed \$60.00 for medication and \$15.00 for land taxes. That left \$175.00 for all the other expenses for the year. I attended school at the new Fruitland School. Mom lived on the farm until 1957 when she bought a lot from Leo Martz in Warburg. Her house was moved onto the lot and she moved in on June 7, 1957. The price for moving the house at that time was \$250.00

She did all her own work until she was 85 years old. In 1965 she had a stroke and spent some time the following year in the Leduc Nursing Home. She then came back to Warburg for about 2 more years. Since April 1969, she had spent her time in various hospitals and nursing homes in the Edmonton area. At present, she is an invalid in the McGuigan Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton. She was 98 years of age on August 7, 1978.

Tillie's step-children have all died. Bill was killed while building in the Warburg area on Nov. 9, 1951. Ida married Mr. Byers early in life. She then married Fred Moeller and they had 1 son, Walter. Later, Ida married Mr. Elg and now lives in Quesnel, B.C. Bill married Evelyn Moore and they had 6 children; Gerry, Diana, Gordon, Hazel, Sharon and Irene. At the time of his death they lived at Fisher Home. Fred remained a bachelor and lives at Drayton Valley. Bertha married Pastor Shulthiess and they had 4 children; Ted, Vera, Edna, and Betty. After the Pastor passed away, she married Bill Sommers and she now resides in Leduc. Steve married Velma Smith and they had 3 children; Stanley, Larry, and Phyllis. Steve still lives on the home place near Thorsby. Elsie married Albert Hoffman and they had 6 children; Doreen, Roddy, Dolores, Lorne, Alfred, and Shirley, Elsie now lives at Sundre. Martha married Albert Snider and



Four Generations: Mrs. Tillie Gitzel with her youngest daughter Laura (holding Great Granddaughter) Tina Robinson and Granddaughter Marilyn Robinson standing.

they' had 1 son, Ernest. They live in the Thorsby district. I married Walter Sommers and we have 3 children; Ellerey, Marilyn, and Marvin. We live in the Warburg area.

MR. AND MRS. EMIL GUNSCH

by Granddaughter Freda Miller

Emil and Louise, with young daughter Martha, came to Alberta from Russia in 1907. They came to the Strathcona district where Emil worked for Mr. Neiman on a farm and later worked for a farmer in the Connedale area.



L. to R.: L. Gottfried (Fred) Gunsch, Emil Gunsch. Front row: Olga, Martha, Mother Louise holding baby Ida on her lap and Albert Gunsch beside her.

In 1909 they moved to the Fruitland district where they found their dream fulfilled - they were able to buy their own land. They later bought another quarter from a neighbor. They paid \$800.00 for it.

The Gunsches lived on the homestead and their first house was made of log walls with a sod roof. After a few years they built a two-room log house which through the years was added onto until it became a much larger home with 4 very large rooms. The house is still lived in today.

Most of the land was cleared by hand and they did grain farming. Harvesting was a busy time, but sort of fun too. Neighbors such as Sniders and Klemkys helped haul all the bundles into large stacks, then they would thresh from the stacks. Otto Gitzel was the first to have a steam threshing machine in the district. If there was grain to be sold, it had to be hauled to Leduc which had the nearest grain elevator.

At the age of 12 Martha, the youngest daughter, passed away. Five other children had been born, namely Olga, Albert, Ida, Oscar and Sam.



Emil Gunsch's new car, Chevrolet. Olga and Ida Gunsch standing in front of it, 1927.

In 1943 Emil and Louise retired and moved into Thorsby to a house just north of the United Church. He paid \$700.00 for it. At that time their son Oscar took over the farm until he too retired.

Emil died suddenly in 1947 at the age of 63 and Louise in 1953 at 67. Two children have also passed away, Sam in 1959 and Olga Brunken in 1969.

JOSEPH AND JULIA HEMELA

by granddaughter Julia Horn

Joseph Hemela was born in a small town called Pivnice in Yugoslavia, near the Hungarian - Romanian border. Leaving his wife Julia and their 4 children he sailed for Halifax, Canada in 1927. He then came to Edmonton to find work. With two other friends they were hired by local farmers.

Joe spent his summers working for Syd Rickson and the winter months in a coal mine near Edmonton. Several years later he bought the old Dunlop farm and settled on it.

Following the tragedy of losing their 2 oldest sons in the war and the youngest son at home, his wife Julia came in 1953 to join him. Along with her were their

daughter Julia and her 10 year old daughter also named Julia. Julia was a widow as her husband had died shortly after returning home from several years of war service.

In 1961 Julia remarried and became Mrs. Steve Dool. They moved onto his farm in the Morrowdale district and continue to make their home there. A son was later born to them in 1964. David attends school in Thorsby.

Daughter Julia enrolled in a Nursing Aid Course and after spending some time nursing in various areas. she married Demas Horn in B.C. They have one daughter Louise, born in 1970. Louise attends Thorsby school also.

After 12 years of living elsewhere Julia and Demas are now residing on the Hemela farm northwest of Thorsby.

Her grandparents Joseph and Julia are both deceased. Joseph died in 1965 and his wife passed away in 1970.

MR. AND MRS. FRED KLATT

written by their daughters

Fred Klatt was born in Rokin Lutsk, Poland on Nov. 28, 1899. Amanda Schrul was born in Maryanofka, Poland on July 14, 1905. Fred and Amanda were married in Poland on February 24, 1925. Although they were born in Poland, they were both of German descent.

Mr. and Mrs. Klatt and daughter, Emma, emigrated from Poland on July 23, 1928, crossing the ocean aboard the ship, Estonia, and landing at Halifax on August 26, 1928. They travelled by train from Halifax to Leduc where they were fortunate to meet a German-speaking family - the William Wedman family, who offered to let them stay on their farm north of Leduc. Less than a month later, a second daughter, Hadey, was born.

That fall, Mr. Klatt helped with the harvest on the Wedman farm, while Mrs. Klatt helped with the cooking and canning. In this way, they returned the kindness that was shown to them.

After the harvest, Mr. Wedman and Mr. Klatt went out to look for a farm. Mr. and Mrs. Klatt bought a quarter section - all bush - from Mr. Podgorny. This farm was situated 4 miles northwest of Thorsby. Immediately they started building a two-room shack, in which they and their 2 small daughters spent the winter. They often related that it was so cold that they took their 2 daughters to bed with them and piled on extra feather quilts to keep warm.

The following spring, they started to clear a few acres of bush with axe and grub hoe, working side by side. The land was broken with horses and walking plow. Frost hit early the fall of their first crop, so they lit brush piles surrounding the small plot of wheat, and thus saved the grain for the next year's seed.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Klatt February 24, 1925. Married in Poland.

During the winter months, Mr. Klatt did carpentry work in the neighborhood to make a few extra dollars. In fact, he received \$2.00 per day for his work. Mrs. Klatt stayed at home spinning wool and knitting for her family and neighbors. Mr. Klatt built the Fruitland School coal shed and the horse barn, and he helped build the school fence.

Mr. Klatt and a neighbor, Mr. Mielke, contracted to clear 1 mile of road just east of their farm. Since they were self-boarding, they received 40 cents per day.

The horse was the only means of transportation at that time. It took 2 days for a round trip to Leduc for a supply of groceries, as there was no store in Thorsby, at that time. Often their English-speaking neighbor, Mr. Rickson delivered their groceries to them. Although the Klatt's spoke only German and Ricksons spoke only English, somehow they were able to communicate.

Mr. and Mrs. Klatt often recalled the time they had their last 25 cents in their pocket, but they had 2 pigs to be sold the next day. However, the buyer wasn't able to come for them that day because of the roads, impassable for even horse and wagon. Mr. Klatt took

his 25 cents and went on horseback to Thorsby and brought home 3 loaves of bread and some sugar. Two days later, the pigs were sold, at \$4.00 each.

After a few years of toiling on the farm, a son, Harold, was born. The neighbors recall how Mr. Klatt came to their place and announced that he was a millionaire because he had a son. Just over a year later, twin girls, Erna and Elsie, arrived. Scrubbing diapers for 3, especially after a long day's work in the field, was not easy. By then the oldest daughter, aged 7, was invaluable as an assistant cook and baby-sitter.

At this time a new house was built of logs, which were shaped with a rip saw and notched with an axe. All the sawing of logs and construction of the house was done by Mr. and Mrs. Klatt, with the help of Bill Schmidt. The cracks between the logs were chinked with mud and then the whole interior was white-washed. This two-story house had 3 bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, a pantry, and a large room at the entrance. Gradually more improvements were made and siding was put on the outside andthe interior was plastered.

All 5 children attended Fruitland School and finished Grade 8 there. Since they lived 3 miles from school, they travelled by horse and buggy in summer and horse and cutter in winter. However, in spring and fall, the horses were used for the field work so they walked. On very cold winter days, Mrs. Klatt heated a large rock or bricks in the oven, and then wrapped them in a small blanket and put them in the cutter to keep her children's feet warm.



The Klatt children, from L. to R: Standing: Elsie, Erna . Seated: Hadey, Harold, Emma.

When their children got older, Mr. and Mrs. Klatt bought another quarter section of land across the road from them. About half of this land was already under cultivation and the rest was later cleared, but this time with cat and brush cutter. Gradually, a tractor replaced the horses and the machinery was, of course, updated. They now farmed on a larger scale.

Along with the hard work on the farm, there were also many pleasures. Sunday forenoon, and many evenings, were spent with Mr. and Mrs. Klatt harmonizing in church hymns and other songs. The neighbors often came down and coaxed them to sing, especially the peppy Polish songs, as they were both fluent in the Polish language. Mr. Klatt was a first-rate harmonica player and the children could listen to him for hours.

Whenever possible, the whole family went to the Lutheran church in Thorsby. Even if they could not go to church, Sunday didn't go by unobserved, as Mr. Klatt would tell them bible stories. Visitors were always welcome and Sundays were seldom spent alone. Mrs. Klatt was an excellant cook and enjoyed serving her homecooked dishes to their guests.

Time seemed to pass too quickly for them, for in 1945, the oldest girl, Emma, got married to Leslie Kadnar, a farmer in their neighborhood. Then in 1948, the second daughter, Hadey, married DeLaurice Smith, also a farmer in the neighborhood. Two years later, Harold went to work in the oil field and Erna and Elsie to university. The house seemed almost unbearably empty to Mr. and Mrs. Klatt, but they had to adjust to this new life, and having some of their children home on Sundays, certainly helped.

In 1953, after several years of teaching, one of their twin daughters, Erna, married Orvil Biever who was then farming near Breton, but a year later went to work in the oil field construction and then became an oil field contractor. Erna taught for 12 years at Breton after they were married, and the last 6 years she has been secretary for their construction company.

Three years later, the other twin daughter, Elsie, who was then teaching in Sunnybrook, married Frank Tomaszewski, a merchant in Sunnybrook. Elsie is now teaching in Warburg.

Tragedy struck the Klatt family in 1961 when their only son, Harold, passed away while working for Regent Drilling Co. in Saskatchewan. Mr. Klatt sadly admitted that the Klatt name would not go on.

Two years later, in 1963, Mr. and Mrs. Klatt sold the farm and retired in Thorsby where they again built their own home. Here they lived a quiet and relaxing life among their many friends and neighbors.

Mr. Klatt passed away in November, 1970, and Mrs. Klatt passed away in October, 1974. They are fondly remembered by their 4 daughters and husbands, and their 9 grandchildren.

THE ANDREW KLEMKY FAMILY

Andrew Klemky was born in 1890 in the village of Yolynia, Poland, He immigrated to Canada in August of 1911, coming to Ellerslie where he lived with the Gus Hiller family. He worked for the Hillers and Kuhns from 1912 to 1916. He was followed to Canada by his twin sister, the late Mrs. Gus Jacobi of Wetaskiwin.

Olga Marinoski was born at Nisku, the oldest of the Ludwig Marinoski family of 6 children. Many of



Andrew Klemky Family in 1959. Back row: Gladys and Leo Klemky, Elsie and Leo Sierpinski, Ferdinand Gunsch, Emil Nikloai and Dora, Robert Klemky, John Blonarwitz and Alma Litzenberger. Middle Row: Walter Klemky, Laura and Steve Blonarwitz, Isabelle Blonarwitz, Eugina Klemky, Edward Scheetz and John Litzenberger. Front Row: Loretta Klemky, Andrew Klemky (father), Esther Ellis and her husband Jim Ellis, Olga Klemky (mother), Adeline Scheetz and Ruth Gunsch.

their descendants reside in the Leduc and Edmonton areas.

In 1916, Andrew Klemky and Olga Marinoski were married. They farmed in the Nisku area until 1921 when the family moved to what is now the Thorsby area, on to the Lyman Dunlop place. Later that year, they took up the school section in the Fruitland district, where the family lived on the NE ¼ until 1939 when the north ½ of the section was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Gitzel. After experiencing difficulty in finding a satisfactory water supply, the



Andrew Klemky and Olga Marinoski, January 27, 1916, near Nisku.

Klemkys finally built on the SE1/4 just 1/2 mile north of the Fruitland School. They remained there until the parents and youngest daughter Esther moved to Edmonton in 1952.

Those days, life was very busy for the Klemkys. There was a family of 11 children to raise. Their mixed farming activities included raising Red Polled cattle, sheep, bees, and pinto ponies. There was always plenty of road work to do, as well as other community activities. One of the Klemky's prized possessions was their Massey Harris Pacemaker tractor, one of the first rubber-tired tractors in that area, and which attracted many visitors, all curious to see if it could really perform without lugs.

After their move to Edmonton in 1952, Andrew and Olga Klemky worked for some time, retiring from their work at the Aberhart Memorial Hospital about 1959.

In Feb. 1963, Andrew Klemky passed away, and was laid to rest in Thorsby. In 1966, Olga married James Phillips of Red Deer. Shortly after, Mr. Phillips passed away. She continued living in Red Deer a short while, then returned to Edmonton where she presently resides.

Of the 11 children, several still live in the Thorsby area - Ruth, Mrs. Ferdinand Gunsch; Dora, Mrs. Emil Nikolai; Adeline, Mrs. Edward Scheetz; Mrs. Alma Litzenberger at Stony Plain; Isabel, Mrs. John Blonarowitz at Kelowna, B.C., Robert and Eugenie Klemky are in Edmonton; Walter and Loretta Klemky at Sylvan Lake, and Leo and Gladys Klemky are at Red Deer. Two daughters, Elsie Sierpinski and Laura Blonarowitz, are deceased. As of October 1978, there are 40 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren, as well as 2 great-great-grandchildren.

JOSEPH & SUSAN KRUKOWSKI STORY

by Ed and Phyllis Krukowski

Hearing of better opportunities in the new land, Joseph and Susan Krukowski left Poland on May 30, 1927, for Canada. With them were their three small children, Edmund, Jenny, and Zetta. Their ship landed at Halifax, Nova Scotia, whereupon the family boarded a train for Edmonton, Alberta.

The family spent their first two weeks in Alberta with a cousin near Nisku, Alberta. On June 15, 1927, they moved to a farm in the Fruitland District north of



Joe and Susan, 1945.



Jennie and her daughter, Jane.

Thorsby. This was Joseph and Susan's home for the next 32 years. In 1959 they sold their farm and retired to Thorsby. Joe passed away on October 6, 1964.

Susan: Mother worked faithfully along with her husband clearing the land and building up a successful farmstead. Both were interested in progress and the freedom offered in the new land of Alberta, in those earlier years. They experienced the usual pioneer setbacks, hardships, and often times of loneliness in a new land, removed from their many ties with relatives and friends in Europe. They also experienced and lived through the depression of the 1930's. However, they carried on and looked forward to better days.

Mother celebrated her 77th birthday in August, 1978. She still resides in her own home in the village Thorsby with assistance in maintenance from her children and grandchildren. She is now a great-grandmother with six great-grandchildren.

Her son Edmund and wife Phyllis reside in the



Ed and Zetta, 1945

village of Warburg. Both are teachers in the County of Leduc. They have two children, Loren and Zola. Loren resides in the rural area of Warburg and is married to the former Elaine Mosicki. They have three children, Jeffrye, Jody, and Jeremy. Zola lives in Edmonton and is also a teacher.

Daughter Jenny, with her husband Frank Halwa resides in the Thorsby area on a farm. They have four children.

Daughter Zetta is married to Dr. Arthur Oswald, formerly of Wetaskiwin. They make their home in Santa Ana, California with their three children.

MY SCHOOL LIFE IN THE THIRTIES AND DURING WORLD WAR II

submitted by Elsie Becker Osbak

My father, mother, sister and I came from Hilda, Alberta to the Thorsby area in 1927. We settled onto a raw bush quarter $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of what was destined to become Thorsby. My parents endured the usual hardships associated with little money and later having to cope with the depression.

People then managed to survive because they simply didn't have all of today's expenses - no power, phone, fuel (either heating or for machinery), no insurance of various kinds, no crop sprays or vet fees, and no vacation trips. What little furniture or machinery they bought was made to last. Only clothing did not wear as well or better than today's. Stores were not stocked with today's dozens of convenience items or junk foods, and only staple food items were bought.

After Thorsby started up in 1929, my parents bought their groceries at Mr. John Rolston's store and the bag of hard candy that Mr. Rolston used to put free of charge into the grocery box was our only treat in those days. One Christmas he gave my mother a lovely flowered bowl which I now have. I'm afraid to use it, but she used it continually over the years.

In 1931, my younger sister Edna died at the age of four. She was not taken to a funeral parlor since there was no such thing within driving distance of a team of horses so Edna was placed in the root cellar with two

large pennies on her eyes. She was buried at Telfordville.

I shall give just one example of the poverty stricken conditions under which we lived; I had very carefully managed to save up 47 cents that my dad had from time to time given me to keep in a lovely little chain change purse that a dear neighbor lady, Louise Gunsch, had given me. Well, the time came when my dad was so hard up that he had to ask me for that 47 cents.

What I would really to like to write about is school life and my teachers; those unsung heroines and heroes of my growing-up years.

Mr. Allan Rostron, my first teacher at Fruitland School, boarded at Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dunlop's place just north of our place. My dad had acquired a grade one reader and a set of printed and written a b c's from Mr. Rostron the year before I started school and my parents taught me to read, write, and do arithmetic at home. As a result of this background I was accelerated into grade two.

With a large number of students in eight different grades Mr. Rostron didn't have much time for the younger students who spent a great deal of time playing with plasticine, drawing pictures, and listening to the lessons in the higher grades. "The Ancient Mariner" and "Horatius at the Bridge" were two selections that thrilled me and I used to long for the time when I would be in the higher grades so that I could read for myself "Alone, alone, all, all alone" but the readers were changed before I got there.

It was during his reign that the already crowded classroom reached an uprecedented total of 49 when the Schauers moved in and some of them had to sit on upended apple boxes in the aisles. Home time was absolute chaos as the two cloakrooms, (as they were called), were filled with shoving, scrambling bodies fighting for their coats and lard pails in a hurry to get out. My dad who would sometimes get me in the winter time as it was a two-mile walk, complained that I was always the last one out.

Mr. Wilfred Garrett was my teacher in grades 4, 5, and 6. Mr. Garrett really brought the study of explorers to life as he told us about and had us read about Cabot, Cartier, Champlain, La Salle, etc. Madeline de Vercheres with the help of her young brother and a soldier defending a fort against the Indians was such a brave romantic figure. I agonized over Adam Dollard and his 16 Frenchmen defending to their death another fort against 1000 Iroquois in order to save Montreal from Indian attack. We made booklets in which we wrote our favorite Canadian history stores.

Map work took a considerable amount of time as we drew the outlines, rivers, cities, etc. freehand on paper or at the chalkboard, or traced them at the windows. Sometimes we painted them in water colors as an art assignment.

My last year at Fruitland was the happiest and at the end - the saddest. Margaret Diercks was the



Mike Shram and Peter Stashko in Thorsby High School, 1943.

teacher and I idolized her but I did not ever talk unnecessarily to her as pupils nowadays are wont to do -especially the younger ones. We were more shy while the teachers seemed to be more aloof.

Miss Diercks boarded at her parent's home north of Fruitland and walked the 2 miles or so in shoes with three-inch spike heels. Her suits, dresses to just below the knee, and her hair were always neat and tidy. (Without resorting to harsh discipline she kept Fruitland School in good order.) Perhaps the fact that the school population had now dwindled to somewhere in the low 30's with the declining birth rate of the depression, helped.

There were 5 of us in grade 8; Zetta Krukowski, Alma Rinas, David Gaulter, and Philip Melin besides myself.

My favorite time of day was just after the noon hour when Miss Diercks would read to us while we relaxed from our noonhour activities. Anne of Green Gables and Anne of Avonlea were two of the books she read to us.

During my years at Fruitland the concert was the highlight of the year with the Valentine Party running second. Most valentines were home-made with a lot of work going into the ones sent to our best friends. Ball games against Strawberry and Wilton Park were quite exciting. I can remember only three girls ever making the team; Gladys Dentman (catcher), Jenny Krukowski, and Alma Rinas. Only the catcher and maybe the pitcher and first baseman ever had gloves and these were usually ragged.

The fall of 1939 found Zetta, Philip and me attending Thorsby School, the building the Senior Citizens now use as a Drop-in Center. Mr. Mealing taught grades 5 - 9 in one room; Miss Effie Davidson

grades 1 - 4 in the other. There were 7 grade nines from Thorsby proper, 3 from Fruitland, and 1 (Roger Callaway) from Dniester.

War broke out that fall and Mr. Mealing introduced us to a new subject - current events, but of course it was always about the war, which he was far more interested in than we were. We grew accustomed to his having to use a small round magnifying glass to augment his regular glasses when studying small map details or fractions.

The departmental tests in June were an ordeal at 3 hours per test, but most of us made it into grade 10.

Thorsby High School in those days was held in the United Church. Even though there were students from Thorsby plus Fruitland, Weed Creek, Dniester, Strawberry, Progress, Telfordville, and Sunnybrook, there was only a total of twenty-some students in grades 10 to 12. Not many rural students went beyond grade 8 or 9 in those days because it meant boarding or living in Thorsby. Since I lived only $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Thorsby, I walked, drove a horse and buggy, or rode a bike but boarded in town for the winter.

Mrs. Hartwell was my grade 10 teacher at a time when married lady teachers were rather uncommon. Because there was only the one high school teacher, none of us could take the heavy credit course loads that academic students now take nor did we have the piles of homework that the serious ones now have. The most credits I ever managed to take were 32, in grade 10. Teachers then had to teach everything that they could fit into their time table (no spares) but poor Mrs. Hartwell had trouble with geometry and when she couldn't help us she would stress the fact that she was really a Latin teacher. And how confident she sounded when teaching a Latin class! We learned in spite of ourselves.

Mr. Clyde Patterson was my grade 11 teacher. He didn't look much older than the grade 12 boys and his rapport with all of us was tremendous. He inspired us because he managed to make the work interesting, except for something as cut-and-dried as algebra.

I did sometimes wonder why the grade 12 chemistry class seemed to produce hydrogen sulfide so often in the "lab" behind a movable chalkboard. The "lab" was a 2 ft. by 4 ft. space with a small cupboard containing some chemicals and equipment so meagre it would make today's chemistry and physics teachers send out a purchase order to the school board immediately.

We had a little farewell get-together at the end of June and Mr. Patterson went to each of us in the circle surrounding him with an encouraging comment for the future. When he told me, "Elsie, I hope to some day see some of your work in print," I felt like crying.

Miss Gladys Vickery was my first-year grade 12 teacher. She too was young - and pretty, so much so that some of us girls were jealous of her. Even though she faithfully wore someone's fraternity pin on her left breast every single day, this did not deter some of the boys from making fools of themselves, obviously

admiring her. Deep down I think we girls liked her too, anyway I did, because she was genuinely interested in doing as good a job as possible under the trying conditions of having to teach a wide variety of subjects with no prep periods whatsoever.

My mother had broken her arm in late August so I missed the first three weeks of school which left me totally bewildered in a grade 12 math subject called "trigonometry". Trigonometry would be essential for potential commercial airline pilots I suppose, but quite irrelevant for most of the rest of us. Anyway, Miss Vickery took time to teach me by myself for a while trying to get me caught up to Zetta, Leona Medisky, and Joe Radowits. After a few days of this, she must have felt that I was taking advantage of her good nature because she told me in a somewhat exasperated tone, "You'll just have to catch up!" And I did, but I never did like trigonometry.

That year typing was introduced to Thorsby High School with the advent of 2 battered Remingtons and 1 good Underwood placed on a crude table at the back of the church with a bench for us to sit on. Mr. Val Pailer from the grade 5 - 9 class came over to teach some of us the rudiments of typing while Miss Vickery went over to his classroom in what must have been Thorsby's first try at departmentalization.

I loved typing and had commercial courses been available then, I wouldn't have wasted my time (and Miss Vickery's) on trig. At the end of the year I had 4 departmentals to write, English, social studies, biology, and trig., 2 short of the grade 12 subjects then required for university entrance and several credits short of the diplomas which was all I really wanted as university seemed out of the question with no student loans available (at least I never heard of any) and my parents certainly couldn't afford it. Zetta and Leona went to Calmar High the next year while I went back to Thorsby 1 more year to pick up enough credits to get my diploma.

This last year was not spent in a church but in the building now known as the Action Center. Thorsby had 4 classrooms in 2 buildings but grades 10 - 12 were still in one room and Miss Frances Norris, the new teacher, still had to teach a wide variety of subjects with no prep periods (no wonder Thorsby High School teachers lasted only one year). She was kind enough to offer me another grade 12 academic subject, French III, (the equivalent of today's French 30 I suppose) even though I was the only one taking it. Since I was taking only 3 other subjects, I became a half-time student.

In June of 1944 Mr. Pailer supervised the writing of my French III departmental exam and suggested that I also write the entrance test for the Edmonton Normal School. During the war years the once over-supply of teachers had dwindled to a shortage to the extent that the Normal School was now offering a 3-month War Emergency Course to those who had their diploma and the required grade 12 subjects. On completion of this course we would be given an



Boys: Peter Stashko, Earl Zeiner, Michael Tomazewski, Stanley Tomaszewski, Jack Griffin, Mike Shram, John Kunkel, Ivar Hoyem, Joe Radowits, Peter Meditsky, Bill Kuzio, Steve Klimosko, Robert Samardzic (sitting) Girls: (back row) Mary Arthur, Helen Lindberg, Leona Meditsky, Olive Shilson (front row) Eileen VanAlstyne, Zetta Krukowski, Elsie Becker, Stella Maduik.

Interim Certificate and allowed to teach grades 1 to 10 inclusive. In order to get a permanent certificate we would have to attend 2 summer school sessions and obtain a superintendent's recommendation. Although I had planned to take a 7-month course at Alberta College, I changed my mind in favor of the 3-month War Emergency Course solely because it would be cheaper.

The fall of 1944 found me along with 255 others at Garneau Normal Practice School under the instruction of at least 10 teachers - a novelty for me! Because of the war and the low teachers' salaries in those days, there were very few boys in what was to be the last Normal School Class before it was incorporated as the Faculty of Education into the University of Alberta. Never before had my life been so hectic! Among the seemingly hundreds of activities that were crammed into this mini-course were such things as making a set of sightreading words, filling out a register and balancing it, going on a nature walk (I learned what plantain was), learning how to draw a horse, modelling (with clay), and putting on a Christmas play. Of course there were also countless lectures none of which I remember. We even did 3 stints of practice teaching in the city under the capable supervision of experienced teachers which helped us more than any of the lectures did.

All too soon this whirlwind of activity was over. I had a job teaching 11 or so students out at Onion Creek in the Carnwood area at a monthly salary of \$98.00 which was considered quite good for a beginning teacher since it included an isolation bonus. The children had been without a teacher, since the previous June and I was to begin the following January, 1945.

I have been teaching long enough, that for years my classes have included students who are the youngsters of former students. Although teaching has had its rewarding moments, I do not encourage any of them to take up teaching as a profession because



Thorsby High School Girls: L. to R.: Anne Pankewitz, Olive Shilson, Zetta Krukowski, Vera Smith, Mary Arthur, Jewell Mealing, Leona Meditsky, Verna Clark, Rose Simpkin, Helen Lindberg.

contrary to what one may think after reading this, teaching has not become easier - different, yes, but not easier. Since this is supposed to be a history book, I won't go into all the problems today's teachers face.

Statistics: In 1947 I married Vernor Osbak of Genesee. We have 3 sons, Gary, Nolan, and Tracy. In 1969 Gary married Gloria Rinas of Telfordville and they have 2 children, Kevin and Rochelle. Gary and his family live in Sherwood Park. Nolan and Tracy make their home with us on a farm in Genesee.

My mother died in 1971 at the age of 67. She was happily living in Thorsby at the time. My dad died in 1976 at the age of 82. Both are buried at Telfordville.

CARL AND AMALIE WERNER MOELLER

submitted by Alma Bentley

Mr. Carl Friedrech Wilhelm Moeller (Charles), was born in Germany in 1880. His parents were Carl Moeller and Wilhelmine Pieselman. They came to Leduc in 1902, from Ohcoma, South Dakota with cattle and other possessions. They spent the winter of 1902 on the Southwick farm west of Leduc. His parents moved west to homestead S.W. 14-50-1 W5, adjoining his parents homestead. They cut grain with a



Wedding of Amelia and Charlie Moeller in Feb. 1903.



Alex Earl threshing at Moeller farm with water wagon in use.

binder pulled by 3 horses, stooked the grain and when it dried put it into stacks. Alex Earl owned a steam engine and threshing machine. He came late in the fall

to thresh the grain stacks.

Carl was senior trustee for Fruitland School District #2719, established on April 25, 1912. He became chairman at the first council meeting on March 26, 1906. He made a motion regarding land assessment on farms, to be \$5.00 for each quarter of land. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. He also went out with a team of horses and a slip to build roads to help pay the taxes for many years.

They raised a family of 6 children, two sons and four daughters. They endured many hardships in the early years of their marriage, living off the land and wild game. Leduc was the closest town until Calmar

had a general store.

For many years they farmed in the Fruitland district with his family. He died in 1941. His son Albert took over the home farm and he later sold it to John Pasula. Albert then went to Genesee to operate a general store. He died on Oct. 28, 1958. His mother died in 1960. She was living in Thorsby, married to Alex Peck at the time of her death.

WILLIAM AND BERTHA (WALTERS) **MOELLER**

submitted by Bertha Moeller

William Moeller was the oldest son of Carl Friedrech Whilhelm Moeller. William farmed in Fruitland with his parents until Feb. 1931. He married Bertha Walters of Leduc. They moved to their farm N.W. 14-50-28 W4, 2 miles east of the Moeller homestead. He started to work for the County of Leduc in 1948. He continued to farm and work for the County until 1962 when he moved to Thorsby to retire from farming.

William worked for the County until 1970, health reasons making him retire. They continued to live in Thorsby until he passed away in 1974. His one son Harvey Moeller farms at Sunnybrook. Harvey

married Doris Bilou in 1954.

Harvey and Doris went to Vancouver for 2 years then came back to farm in the Telfordville district for a few years. He sold his farm and bought the Johnson



Bill and Bertha Moeller and their granddaughter Chady in 1967.



Harvey Moeller riding to Fruitland School in

dairy farm at Glen Park and lived there for a few years, then sold it and left to go grain farming at Sunnybrook. They had one daughter, Chady. In 1974 Doris became ill and in 1975 passed away. Harvey and his daughter continued to farm at Sunnybrook. He married Esther Bergman who had one daughter, Pamie and both girls go to Warburg school. They still reside at the Sunnybrook farm.



Bill Moeller running the snowplow in 1948.



Chady Moeller and Pamie Bergman, with Grandma in Nov. 1978.

GOTTLIEB SCHAUER FAMILY

Gottlieb Schauer was born in North Dakota on June 28, 1898. It was here that he met, courted and married Lydia Hieb. Their first son Leo was born



Gottlieb Schauer family - 1928.

there. The young family came to Canada and after farming for some time in the Leeder and Mendham, Sask. areas, they settled near Empress, Alta. Seven more children were born to round out the family; Alta, Elmer, Norman, Palma, Olive, Lester, and Morris.

Life was hard and both Mother and Father were kept busy providing and caring for their family. Besides the everyday chores of cooking, baking, washing and outside chores, Lydia was always busy at her old Homestead sewing machine. Flour and sugar sacks were bleached, dyed, sewed, trimmed with tucks, ruffles, and beautiful embroidery. Dresses, shirts, and bloomers were just some of the garments appearing as a result of her busy and talented fingers. Shoes were a winter luxury. Summer was bare-foot time. Even through the hard times the family hosted card parties, and community dances were a part of the busy life.

After 7 years of drought in the Empress area, the family decided to move. They came to the Thorsby district with the 'Doc' Coderre family. They came by rail and all their animals and farming equipment came with them in box cars. Between the 2 families, it was quite the cavalcade. The family found a place to spend the winter on the Mike Bittner place, S.E. 3-50-1-W5. The year was 1931.

During the winter, Gottlieb planned to scout the area to find a farm to rent. In March of 1932, tragedy struck. Lydia died suddenly at the age of 38. Life changed for the family. Suddenly all had to mature beyond their young years, and they did. The family remembers the many people who came by and offered help in various ways, to Gottlieb and his children. His eldest daughter, Alta, then 13, fondly recalls the patience her father had with her in the learning of many household duties. She remembers having to learn how to bake bread the 'trial and error' method; the bad batches and her father's patient reply, "We'll just have to get you some more flour so you can try again."

After the death of his wife, Gottlieb moved his family to the James Grant farm. In the following years, the family was to live on the Ed Zemrau place, SW 35-49-1-W5 (later known as the Sych farm), and the Angus McDougall farm .S.E. 30-49-1-W5 (later known as the Scheetz farm). Gottlieb farmed in and around the Thorsby area from about 1932 to 1942. In 1935 he married Maria Weber. The Schauer children attended Fruitland, Telfordville, Warburg, and Fern Creek Schools. Allan Rostron, a teacher at Fruitland, is one of the teachers they remember with respect and



Schauer family: 1977 L. to R.: Leo, Alta, Elmer, Norman, Palma, Olive, Wes, Morris, George, Maria, Ralph, Shirley, Ruth, Eileen, Iris and Doreen.

fondness.

About 1942, Gottlieb (or George as he was known to many) and his wife Maria left the farm and for approximately 6 years he was to run the Warburg pool hall and cut hair for the community.

Gottlieb and Maria raised 7 more children; George, Ralph, Shirley, Ruth, Eileen, Iris, and Doreen joined the already large family. When Gottlieb left Warburg he moved to Edmonton, Clearwater, B.C., and finally to Gibbons, Alta. where he operated a pool hall and barber shop in the basement of his home until his retirement.

Five of his children served in the Canadian Forces, Elmer, Wesley, Palma, and Lester in W.W. II. Lester died in that war in 1943. Morris served in the Korean conflict. Ralph Schauer, Melvin Dunlop and Ron, Gary, and Jim Schauer are all presently serving in the forces.

Gottlieb Schauer died on Sept. 1, 1977 at the age of 77. His widow resides in Gibbons, Alta. His children reside in all corners of the country. Leo is in Calmar, Elmer in Rimbey, Norman in Gibbons, Wesley and Morris in Oyen, George in Lethbridge, Ralph in Victoria, B.C., Mrs. Alta Dunlop in Edmonton, Mrs. Olive Lundstrom in Fort St. John, B.C., Mrs. Palma Larsen in Grande Prairie, Mrs. Shirley Loblick in Gibbons, Mrs. Ruth Davison in Clearwater, B.C., Mrs. Eileen Skauge in Medicine Hat, Mrs. Iris Morrill in Drayton Valley, and Mrs. Doreen Blackall in North Bondi Beach, Australia. One son, Lester, died in 1943, and one grandson in 1975. He has 52 grand children, 22 greatgrandchildren, and 1 brother and sister in North Dakota and numerous nieces and nephews.

Gottlieb Schauer loved to have young people around and is remembered by his children as a hard-working and gentle man with a happy sense of humor.

GOTLIEB SCHATTSCHNIEDER (SNIDER)

Written by Laura Sommers (Granddaughter) as told to me by my mother, Mrs. Matilda Gitzel. Contributions come from Martha Neiman (Granddaughter), Fred Gitzel (Grandson), and Emma Martin (Granddaughter).

Gotlieb Schattschnieder was born on July 5, 1851 in Wolynia, Russia. There he learned the building trade from his father and later went to work as a Forest Ranger.

In 1885, Gotlieb and Juliana (nee Gatzkie), their eldest daughter Kashvina (from a previous marriage) and their two younger children, Matilda — 5 years old and Charles — 1 year old, set sail for Canada. One of their sons died at the age of 3 while they were still in Russia. Gotlieb's sister Lizzie and her husband (the Ritters) had immigrated to Canada 2 years previously



Gotleib and Juliana Schattschneider with nephew George Ritter.

and settled in Winnipeg.

My grandparents brought with them only their clothes and a few personal items. One of the possessions my grandfather brought was his 32 inch double barrelled shotgun. He was one of the very few people who was allowed a gun in the old country. As a Forest Ranger, he was allowed a gun for protection against the wolves that roamed in large packs. While crossing the ocean, they encountered very stormy weather and the smaller children were very frightened as the ship was tossed about on the waves. It took 3 weeks to make the crossing to Canada. The family was very glad to set foot on land again.

They landed at Berlin (Kitchener), Ontario where Grandpa went to work in the building trade. The next year on December 2, 1886, another daughter, Carolina Emily, was born. In the spring of 1887 the family moved to Detroit, Michigan. Grandpa went to work in a tannery. The unpleasantness of the job made him turn to chewing tobacco to make it easier to endure. Two more daughters were born while they were in Detroit — Emma in 1890, and Ida in 1893. Grandma did washing and ironing for the more well-to-do folks.

In 1895, the family moved to Waterloo County where they stayed for a short time. Kashvina was confirmed while they were there.

There was much talk about the land of milk and honey in the far west, so Gotlieb decided to move his family again. At that time immigrant families were given free passage to western Canada. Kashvina stayed in Waterloo County while the rest of the family moved west by train. To pass the time, they sang songs as Grandpa was very fond of singing and music. The passengers were especially delighted to hear Ida, the

youngest, sing as she was only 2 years old at the time. The passengers gave money to hear her sing. They got off the train at Millet and were taken by oxen to the Hiemthall area, where Millet now is.

When the family had left Detroit, the fruit trees were in bloom and even in eastern Canada, signs of spring were everywhere. It was a shock to arrive in the west to snow drifts piled everywhere and bitterly cold weather. The light clothes that they wore offered little protection against the north wind. Gotlieb and his family stayed only because they did not have the money to go back. The Besler family took them to their home until Grandpa could build a sod shack of his own. He built his first shack on the quarter of land known as the old Biederman place, in the Hiemthall area.

The logs were neatly notched at the corners and then fitted into place. Round poles were added for the roof and sod put on top. Grandma stuffed the cracks with clay mixed with slough grass and moss. Bunks were built at the side of the soddy with poles squared with an adze. Slough grass was cut and dried and put on the bunks. The house had a dirt floor. Grandpa made Grandma a broom made of birch twigs. He selected a straight piece of birch, scraped off the bark, and made it smooth with a knife. He then tied the smaller birch twigs to the bottom of the stick to make a round broom. This type of broom worked well on the dirt floor.

Birch stem worked smooth with a knufe

All members of the family worked to get a home started. The children worked when they could and whatever money they earned was given to the parents to buy necessary supplies. They toiled from dawn till dark. Fire wood had to be chopped down with an axe, cut into stove lengths with a bucksaw and split for the cook stove. An oblong pit was dug near the soddy. This was for catching rabbits which were very plentiful in those early days. This was very fortunate, for without the rabbits to eat, food would have been very scarce indeed. Grandpa would shoot bush chickens and deer when he had the money for shells.

The next year, in 1896, Gotlieb took up farm land 3 miles west of Leduc. He put up another sod shack and built a barn for his first team of oxen. Land was cleared with grub hoe and axe and then broken with

the walking plow pulled by oxen.

All the settler worked from dawn till night from Monday to Saturday. On Sunday, though, they rested, except for the usual farm chores. On this day the families gathered at each other's homes for church services and visiting. Most of the church services were held at the Daniel Litke home. Around 1900, it was decided to build a place of worship. Grandpa was elected head carpenter and with the help of Daniel Litke, the Knull brothers, Dan, Bill, John and Louie and Stephan Gitzel, their first church was built of logs. The church was named the Gnadenthall Church (Grace Lutheran Church). Grandpa thought that the church was built on his land, but after more surveying, it was found to be on the road allowance. The church was then moved to the present site by oxen. A modern church now stands. The first service was held in 1904. Grandma was overjoyed to have a church so near for she was a very devout Christian, and having a place of worship so close meant much to her.

Around 1908, Grandpa again decided tomove west. This time he took up a homestead in the Strawberry Creek area on the S.E. 22-50-1-W5. This was at the mouth of the Strawberry Creek. Gotlieb's son, Charles, took up the S.W. quarter for his homestead. There were no roads in the area at this time and no road across the creek. Grandpa made a road to his homestead with a spade. He dug down the south hill of the creek and up the north hill, making it wide enough so you could easily drive with a wagon and team. The road, which has always been known as Grandpa's road, is still there today, although the north hill is badly washed out. Many different people have lived on Grandpa's land since him, but the place is still referred to as the Old Snider place. Another sod shack was built and then Grandpa started to cut logs for a new house for Juliana. In the next 4 years, Grandpa cleared 22 acres of land by hand. The land was disced with a six-blade disc, the roots were picked and thenuwheat was seeded. The seed was broadcast by hand over the land. Grandma worked right alongside Grandpa whenever she could. In the fall, the grain was cut with a scythe, which had a cradle with 2 tongs attached. Two swaths with the scythe would make 1

bundle. Grandma would gather the grain and tie it around the middle with part of the grain to make a bundle which was then set up in stooks to dry. After the grain was dry and cured, it was hauled into a building called a shyne. Here Grandpa threshed the grain with a flail.

Summertime was spent clearing land, but during the winter months, Grandpa took care of his trap line and cut down spruce trees which were to be cut into lumber. The boards were cut by 2 men using an old fashioned board saw. The Snider's new house was built of squared logs with boards up and down on the outside insulated with shavings. The inside was done the same way. All the boards were planed by hand with a wooden planer. The ceiling had large open beams and the boards were painted slate grey both inside and out. For the first time my grandparents had a home with shingles on the roof and a floor. The present owners have preserved this house for a summer home. A grain shed was built with squared timbers held together with wooden dowels. Boards were nailed onto 3 sides, the side facing east being left open, and shingles were added. This building is still standing today and is in a very good shape.

By this time, Grandpa was able to afford shells, and wild ducks graced the table on many occasions. Grandma would save the down from these birds and make large feather quilts. The down was put in feather ticking but not sewn across as our quilts are made today. It was stuffed with down until it was plump and about a foot thick. The quilts were very comfy on the cold nights. In the morning, the quilts were beaten, pounded, and smoothed until the feather bed resembled a fluffy cloud. On warm days the quilts were taken outside to put life back into the down. Since there was a large slough just north of the buildings, ducks were always plentiful. Grandpa thought this slough was much too big though, so he dug a drainage ditch 3 feet deep with a spade to the draw on the next quarter section to the north. The ditch is still visible today.

In the cold weather, Grandpa was never without his pilze. This was a fur coat made of dog hide with the fur to the inside. He also wore a fur cap, Russian style, with fur flaps on the inside. Many of the other settlers wore buffalo coats. Grandma wore long skirts and blouses which were known as waists in those days. The ladies wore their hair pompadour style or in braids fashioned in a bun at the nape of the neck.

On the north hill of the creek there was a spring about a third of the way down the bank, which supplied my grandparents with water. Grandpa made wooden yokes for Grandma and their daughter-in-law, Charle's wife, to carry the water up the hill, since it was considered woman's work to bring in the water. With a pail at each end of the yoke, the women would lug the water up the hill. What a chore wash day was in those days! The stock was also taken down to the spring for watering. The trough was a hollowed out log.

In 1911, Gotlieb's son, Charles, left the homestead with his family and bought a quarter section next to the 5th meridian. Grandma was very lonely when her son and his family moved. How she looked forward to the visits that they made across the creek to see her daughter Matilda (Gitzel) and her son Charles and their families! Grandpa made a homemade boat to cross the creek with. On one of their return trips home, the creek was in flood. He decided to cross anyway. While crossing, one of the oars broke and they were swept downstream. As they were swept down around the last bend in the creek toward the river, they thought that it was surely their end. The boat was swept under a low-hanging branch and Grandma grabbed hold. They were then able to pull themselves to shore.

As the years passed, Grandma's health began to fail. She was an asthmatic and her attacks came more and more frequently. It was decided that she would go to stay with her youngest daughter, Ida (Mrs. Albert Sommers), who lived in the Leduc area. Ida took care of her mother until she passed away on August 15, 1931 at the age of 77 years.

When Grandma went to live with Ida, Grandpa built a small shack for himself at his daughter Caroline's place (Mrs. Fred Sommers). There he kept his personal belongings and stayed for some of the winter months. Mostly, though, with grub hoe and axe in hand, he grubbed for his son, Charles, and helped him set up the buildings he needed. Some of these buildings that he built are still standing. He also grubbed for many other families in the area.

Gotlieb Snider enjoyed perfect health until the summer of 1926, when he became ill with pneumonia. He passed away on July 5 at the age of 75 years. July 5, incidentally, was the same day on which he was born. He is well remembered for the many stories he told.

THE CHARLES SNIDER FAMILY

by Emma (Snider) Martin

In 1885, when Charles Snider was only a year old, he came with his parents, from Europe to Kitchener, Ontario. His family resided there for a few years, moved to Detroit, Michigan, then returned to Canada in 1897. On their return, the family came to Michigan Center and Gnadenthal, about five miles west of Leduc. The Snider family lived on the farm where the Gnadenthal Church is today. Charles' father built the first church.

In Charles' younger years, he worked in Stony Plain for the Shrams and Ulmers. His family associated with the Sommers who also lived in the Gnadenthal area, and he dated one of the girls, Tillie. Tillie stayed with one of her sisters, Pauline Moran, in North Edmonton and attended school for two years there. Charles and Tillie were married on November 21, 1905.



Charles Snider family photo. L. to R.: Charles Snider holding Clara, Emma, Mum Tillie Snider holding Agnes, Herman, Albert, Grand-dad, and William.

They lived in the Gnadenthal district where their first child, Ida, was born on September 12, 1906. She died on January 17, 1907. The second child, Albert, was born on September 8, 1907.

In 1908, Charles and Tillie moved to the Strawberry Creek district where they took up a homestead in very rough and rocky country. Their first house was built of logs with a sod roof and a dirt floor. Tillie had to carry water a great distance, from a spring on their land.

William was born on April 4, 1909, and Emma was born on July 20, 1910.

Tillie raised a large garden, and Charles did a lot of hunting and fishing. That was the only way to survive in those days.

In 1911, the family moved to the Fruitland district where they built one of the few frame houses in the area thanks to Grandpa Snider who was quite handy with an axe and a saw. They cleared most of the land by hand.

Times were not easy. Household furnishings were scarce. Mattresses were made by sewing a large piece of material the length of the bed, then filling it with hay or straw and stitching the middle to keep the stuffing in. Wood was burned in the stoves and a big block or stump of wood was put in the heater to last the night. Even then, water pails still froze on the cold nights. Clothes were washed on a wash board, and Tillie made butter with a plunger for many years until she got a churn.

Herman was born on May 13, 1912 and Clara on December 6, 1913. Agnes was born on December 24, 1915. Although Tillie had many small children around, she managed to do her own work, and still helped out in the field at harvest time.

The children had to walk about two miles to school - the Fruitland School which was built on the Klemky quarter in 1930.

There were always lots of people around. On

Sundays, the gang would gather at the Snider home and play ball, horseshoes, or have a sing song. Charles had bought an organ, and there was also a guitar, accordian, cutter harp, and mouth organ. The whole family was quite musical, and always participated in school picnics and concerts. There was a big slough behind the old barn, and some of the children had skates they could clamp on their shoes. The wells were all dug by hand, and in later years, Charles had a well drilled by Mr. Knie from Leduc.

For many years, all the farm work was done by hand and with horses. Threshing was done with a steam engine, and Otto Gitzel threshed for the family until Charles bought his own machine. The first tractor the Sniders bought was a Twin City, and they also had a 1918 Ford car.



T-3. Charles and Tillie Snider in T-Model Ford.

The Sniders were always proud of their horses, and took great care of them as they were the mainstay of farm life. All grain and stock had to be hauled to Leduc by wagon or sled. It was a long trip with horses, and in the winter, Charles had to tie sacks around the horses noses so their nostrils wouldn't freeze up. There were also sheep on the farm, so Tillie would spin wool until the wee hours of the morning, and then knit all the stockings and mitts for the family.

Millie was born on June 10, 1919 and George on September 8, 1920. In 1923, Reinhold and Sam Ruff stayed with the family for a while until they could find a place for the family. The Meckley family also moved in, and the whole house was made into a giant bedroom. All of the kids slept on the floor, for there



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Snider and son Ernest.

were about twenty six people staying in the house for more than a week. Ella was born on February 23, 1925, and Fred on July 11, 1927.

In 1927, Charles purchased a Graham Page car, and in 1928 he bought Russel Lynn's farm. Albert bought the home place, and eventually the Lynn's farm, from Charles and Tillie.

In 1940, George went into the army and was stationed in Jamaica for some time. In 1941, Millie passed away. Charles died on January 21, 1962, and Tillie followed on June 25, 1967. William passed away on August 3, 1967.

Today, the family has not really broken too far away from the original homestead. Albert married Martha Gitzel and they are still on the farm. Emma married Charles Martin and they are retired from farming and living in Edmonton. Herman lives in Thorsby since he retired from his blacksmith and welding business. Clara and her husband John Pahl retired from farming and live in Calmar, and Agnes and Bill Pahl live in Leduc where they moved after retiring from the farm. George and his wife Winnie live in Edmonton where he works for the city. Ella lives in Thorsby, and Fred, who married Shirley Sivertson, drives a grader for Amaco of Canada and lives in Thorsby.

RUDOLF & EMMA STEIN

by Lillian (Stein) Halladay

Rudolf Stein, born in Vollinia, Russia in 1896, lived on a farm with his parents until May of 1914, when he came to Canada. He came to the Leduc area, where 3 brothers and a sister had come earlier. After working on farms in the Leduc area, Rudolf bought a farm in the Fruitland district (SW 1-50-1-W5) in the spring of 1926. Although this farm had been sold by the C.P.R. in 1903 the land had never been improved; it was all in bush. Trees were grubbed by hand and by this method 20 acres were cleared and broken the first year. This was done in addition to farming a ½ section of rented land in the Leduc area the same year.

Emma Schmidtke was in Poland when WW I broke out. The family was evacuated from Poland to Siberia. There they stayed for 3 years. They went back to Poland. However, there was no food, and no work. After completing her religious instructions, at age 14, she went to West Russia to work for 2 years. She went back to Poland for 2 years and then went on to England for 2 years where she worked as a kitchen maid. She again went back to Chelm, Poland for 11/2 years and in April of 1930 came to Canada. She worked in the Ellerslie district for a month and it was there she met Rudolf. Emma then went on to Lethbridge, which is where her sister (Mrs. C. Mertz) lived. Here she worked at a boarding house until the miners went on strike in January of 1931. She came back to the Telfordville district and stayed with the Karl Miller

and Adolf Readner families until her marriage to Rudolf on January 21, 1931.

They lived on the Mike Bittner farm until spring when they moved to their own farm. They cooked and ate in a granary and slept in a bunk house while their house was being built. They moved into their house, which still stands, in October, 1931. As temperatures outside dropped to -40 F., with just shiplap on the walls, two stoves were kept burning and the water was freezing. Coal was mined from the Strawberry Creek and the North Saskatchewan River, near the Holborn Ferry. The Fruitland School had already been built and was just a ½ mile from the farm. The grain from the first year of harvest was hauled to Leduc to be sold. By the next fall an elevator was built at Thorsby. Livestock was trucked to Edmonton. Leisure time was spent visiting neighbors. There were a large number of Lutheran families in the community and travelling pastors from Edmonton and Leduc would come out.

In 1937 Rudolf and Emma acquired another 1/4 section of land (NE 35-49-1-W5). Electricity came into the area in 1953.

Rudolf and Emma moved to Thorsby in August, 1957 and worked as custodians for the elementary schools until retirement in 1969.,

Mr. & Mrs. Stein have a family of three, two daughters and a son. Vernon and Mildred (nee Sommers) still live on the family farm, in the original farm house, with their son Tim. Lilly (Mrs. Lawrence Halladay) lives at Mulhurst; they have 2 children, Ron and Jacqueline. Elaine lives in Edmonton.



The Rudolph Stein Family. L. to R.: Back row: Lillian Halladay, Vernon Stein, Elaine Stein, Lawrence Halladay, Rudolph Stein, Ron Halladay. Sitting: Mildred Stein, Mrs. Rudolph Stein, Tim Stein, Jackie Halladay.

PETER AND ANNA WASYLIW

By Son Mike Wasyliw

Both of my parents were born in Poland - Dad in 1885 and Mother in 1888. On February 2, 1911, he married my mother Anna Hawryliw. Later he served in World War I.

Then in 1924, he decided to come to Canada. He arrived by ship from Europe to Montreal, Quebec, then came to Alberta. In Alberta he got a job at the Luscar Coal Mine. One year later my mother arrived in Alberta. Together they worked and purchased a half section in the Fruitland District, SW 14-50-1 W5 and N.E. 10-50-1 W5.

In the late 1930's, we attended the Fruitland School. Growing up on the farm, I can remember having around 14 horses. The work in the field was always done by the horses. Whenever we had to make chip or do some shopping in Thorsby, it would take most of the day by horses.

In 1946 we purchased our first car, a 1938 Chev. sedan. Three years later, we bought a Farm-All A tractor, which saved a lot of time, by not having to harness the horses.

On January 28, 1961, I married Stephanie Krysa



Mike Wasyliw family, 1973. Stephanie, Phillip, Mike and Maryann.

and a year later we bought the half section from Dad. In that same year, in the spring of 1962 our daughter Maryann was born. Mom and Dad had retired to Thorsby by this time. In 1964 our son Phillip was born.

Dad passed away in 1970 and Mom passed away 2 years later. They are both buried in the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Cemetery near Thorsby.

My brother, Bill lives in Thorsby with his wife Gail and their son Daniel. I still live on the home place with my wife Stephanie and our 2 children, Maryann and Phillip.



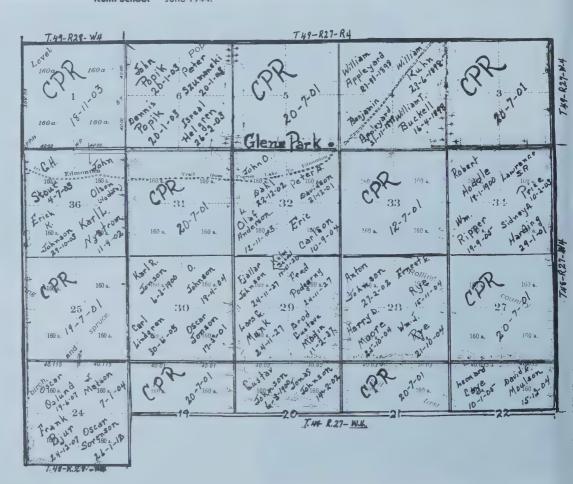
Aerial view of Peter Wasyliw

Kulm



School Pistrict No. 557 June 18, 1900

Kulm School — June 1944.



The First Homesteaders & Grants to the CPR

The Information on this Map Courtesy of: Alberta Prov. Archives and Alberta Gov't Map Division

HISTORY OF KULM SCHOOL #557 1900 - PRESENT

Submitted by Mrs. Raymond Erickson

Kulm School District No. 557 came into existence on June 18, 1900, with Mr. August Johnson as secretary. The school was built the following year on S.W. of 32-48-27-W4 by early Swedish settlers who immigrated from Kulm N.D., U.S.A.

By 1902, the school was ready for its first teacher, Miss Evans who boarded at the home of Rudolf Jonsons. She taught for only 4 months as the school district was not large enough to pay a teacher for a longer period of time. The following year Miss Isabelle Lawson taught for another 4 month period, boarding at August Johnsons. By 1904 the community had grown to where they could afford to pay a teacher (Miss Woods) for a 6 month term. The following year Mr. Woodall, a true Englishman, came to teach but they had to release him as the children were having trouble understanding his British accent.

One of the problems encountered in the early days, was that the children born of European parentage were unable to speak English, some even as late as the 1930's so on entering school, the English language had to be mastered first of all. Lice infestations were prevalent. One child with lice could infest the whole school.

By 1908, the community had grown to the point where the taxpayers could afford to hire teachers for a full ten month term, and as the area became more settled, the small one room school was outgrown and a larger school became necessary. The new school was moved to a more centralized location, N.W. of 29-48-27-W4 and completed in 1916 by local taxpayers, with Mr. Meldrum beginning the fall term as teacher. The school inspector at that time was Mr. M.O. Nelson. The old school was bought by Mr. L.O. Anderson and was moved to his farm where it became part of the Buford post office and general store.

Mrs. Bertha Polson of Ponoka recalls teaching in excess of 50 pupils at Kulm during 1917-1918 as Miss Bertha Shale, boarding at the home of Oscar Jonsons. The salaries at that time ranged from \$720-\$840 per year, board and room being minimal. She recalls having one of the biggest Christmas concerts ever at the school, with plays, recitations and songs. Mr. John Dahl moved an organ to the school for the occasion. She also remembers that they had an excellent teenage choir under the direction of Mr. Emil Lundstrom.

After World War I, Mr. John M. (Jack) Hughes returned to teach for a 2 year period, having taught there in the fall of 1915 before entering the service. He was a great sportsman and during the time he taught, sports had its heyday. Kulm had a basketball team that was hard to beat and their baseball team was



CLASS OF KULM SCHOOL IN 1914

Back row, Left to Right — Nannie Nystrom, Grace Anderson, Rhoda Jonson, Olga Thompson, Ferdinand Dahl, Huram Jonson, Robert Thompson, 2nd row, teacher Minnie Ringwall. Adelia Wickstrom, Alec Dahl, Frank Sorenson, Lenus Jonson, Bertil Forsberg, Herman Wieting, Melvin Anderson, Reuben Dahl, Front row, Tillie Nystrom, Florence Anderson, Dagmar Forsberg, Esther Lindgren, Lilly Sallstrom, Annie Shymansky, Sam Wickstrom, Hugo Bjur, Helge Forsberg, Halvor Jonson, and John Shymansky. The old Kulm School was later converted to L.O. Anderson's store and Buford Post Office was located in the cloakroom.



KULM SCHOOL — 1916 — (Left to Right) Top Row — Margaret Engstrom, Lily Sallstrom, Dagmar Forsberg, Esther L., Alex Dahl, Bertis Forsberg, Halvar Jonson, Lyle Sorenson, Basil Sorenson, Peter Popik, L. Jonson, Hilbert Forsberg, Helge Forsberg.

Middle Row — Annie Shymanski, Florence Anderson, Tillie Nystrom, Christina Flodin, Ruben Dahl, Victor Sorenson, Henry Ripper, John Shymanski,

Unknown, Richard Ripper, Stanley Ripper, Hubert Jonson, Carl Jonson, Clarence Ripper, Unknown.

Bottom Row — Mary Forsberg, Mabel Nystrom, Edna Lindgren, Esther Eklund, Rosella Anderson, Miranda Jonson, Bert Dahl, Raymond Sorenson, Alex Shymanski, Carl Eklund, Herbert Ripper, Manfred Oslund, Berger Forsberg.



KULM JUNIOR STUDENTS, 1944 GRADES 1 - 7

Front Row — Arlene Anderson; Eleanor Schnick; Viola Johanson; Arles Mogdan; Marion Sund; Virgil Paul. 2nd Row — Glen Weiting; Earl Anderson, Cust (Gus) Bendoritis; Nels Yachimetz; Meyrick Card; Jackie Podgurney; George Johnson; Rodney Forsberg; Leona Helgren; (not visible); Lillian Sund; Lorraine Mogdan; Angela Yasunskı. 3rd Row — Aaron Eklund; John Bendoritis; Neale Forsberg; Johnny Popik; Fred Fryk; Mike Yachimetz (top of head only visible); Bernard Sund; Elma Lundmark; Jenine Anderson; Gladys Carlson.

4th Row — Arnold Sund; Mike Fryk; Stanley Yachimetz; Algot Yasunski; Mrs. Ina Anderson (teacher); Edith Lundmark; Stella Yasunski; Stella Popik; Mary Yachimetz.



KULM SENIOR STUDENTS, 1944 GRADES 8, 9, 10

Left to Right — Doris Dahl (arm only visible); Tory Westermark; Angela Bendoritis; Kenneth Oslund; Glen McFarlane (teacher); Alphonse Bendoritis; Nels Nystrom; Walter Sund; Stuart (Buddy) Johnson; Elsie Sund; Mavis Anderson; Mildred Modin Denzil Johnson.

tops. Besides, there was softball, dodge ball, scrub, hit clay, prisoners base, run sheep run, tag, poison tag, fox and geese, hide and seek, crack the whip, in and out the window and many other games to keep the children occupied during recesses.

By 1919 it became apparent that the school was again outgrowing itself and another one room addition became necessary. This was contracted to Mr. Ole Modin and Mr. Andrew Sund and the job was completed by the 1920-1921 school term, now requiring 2 teachers.

The 1920's included Mr. Carl Stults as one of the teachers. He still resides in the Glen Park district and will always be remembered for his amazing ability to recite English literature, especially Shakespeare. He remembers the school inspectors of that time as being Mr. Robertson and Mr. Fuller with Mr. Schoffield taking over during the late 1920's.

The 1920's also included Miss Ina Fors who married Mr. Melvin Anderson of the Glen Park district in 1925. After teaching several years during the 1920's, she came back to teach during the 1940's and 1950's, teaching longer than any other teacher of Kulm.

The 1930's brought the Hughes' era. During the entire 10 years of the 1930's the teaching positions were held exclusively by John M. Hughes and his wife, Mrs. Esther Hughes. Through the years, the school had been the center of the social life of the community with picnics, concerts, sports days etc. being held at the school. Mr. Hughes, helped to instigate the construction of the Glen Park community hall and sports grounds completed during the 1930's.

The history of Kulm school would not be complete without mention being made of Mr. Henry Cooper who served as janitor of the school during the late 1930's and early 1940's. Up until this time, the janitor work had been done by students and their parents on a small salary from the school district: 5¢ per day for sweeping, 10¢ per day for making fires, \$1.50 for scrubbing floor, \$1.50 for oiling floor. (1916 wages) Mr. Cooper lived in a log house with a dirt floor directly across the road from the school and lived on an income of \$15.00 per month, his wages as janitor. He had the extraordinary ability of being able to hold his wide-eyed young listeners spellbound for hours at a time with his captivating tales of his early life in Arkansas and his life as a prospector on coming to Canada. He also knew a lot of card tricks which simply amazed the awe-struck youngsters that came to visit him at times. He later moved to Warburg, where he lived out the remainder of his life.

Kulm School was built in a low-lying marshy area and the one mile of road past the school became nearly impassible at times, especially in the spring. It was a road that no other traffic dared to tackle, giving one cause to wonder what the old timers had in mind when they built the school in such an impossible spot. With Cache Creek overflowing its banks just east of the school and a near bottomless muskeg to the west,

there were times when it seemed impossible to attend school but somehow school remained open and, with a determination that many people of today seem to have lost, teachers and pupils managed to get there by wading through water over their boots, some taking off their boots and carrying them. One lady teacher attempted to cross the overflowing creek by walking on the barbed wire fence but failed and fell into the icy water, arriving at school dripping wet. As a result, she spent the better part of the day drying her clothes at Mr. Cooper's house which he had kindly offered her for the day, to the delight of her pupils. Despite the problem encountered in getting to school, the Kulm School road became one of the last roads in the County to be high graded and gravelled.



FIRST SCHOOL BUS 1946
Owned and operated by Mr. Don Turner, bussing high school students to Leduc.

In 1946-47, the first school bus in the area began bussing the high school students to Leduc. It was a home made van built on an old truck chassis owned and operated by Mr. Don Turner and required a coal and wood heater complete with stovepipe for heat in the winter. It followed the township line between 48 and 49 east to Highway No. 2, then north to Leduc, picking up 4 students from Kulm and 1 from Willow Creek as well as students from Michigan Center and West Union, 18 in all, including a teacher, Mrs. Eva Turner, who taught at Michigan Center. It was only in operation one year and was replaced the following year by a regular bus owned and operated by Donald Weiting bussing Junior High students to Humble and High School students to Calmar. Grades 1-7 remained at Kulm.

In the summer of 1948, a new one-room school was erected at Kulm and the old 2-room school was sold, one room to Mr. Fjaller Johnson who converted it into a house which he later moved to his farm at Pigeon Lake in which he and his wife lived until they moved to Breton in 1977; the other room to Mr. Henry Huber who planned to use it for a chicken house. It was lost in a fire the following spring along with some 1200 baby chicks.

Mrs. Ina Anderson continued teaching until the end of the 1950's, when Harold Rogers took over the teaching position. He became the last teacher to teach at Kulm, the school closing its doors in 1961. From then on all the pupils were bussed to Humble

and Calmar. The community was taken over by "The Kulm Athletic Club" as a community recreation center but it functioned only a few years. In 1977 the County of Leduc sold the property to a private party who has now renovated the school into a private dwelling.

Although Kulm did not produce any great statesmen or other great persons of fame and fortune to our knowledge, the education received behind the doors of these halls of learning has made for more interesting life and made better citizens of those who attended. Although many students disliked school and yearned for the time when they could finally say goodbye forever to the old schoolhouse, the memories and friendships that were made here hold a special place in the hearts of those who attended and on looking back would not have missed it for anything.

KULM SCHOOL TEACHERS

1902 — Miss Evans

1903 — Miss Isabelle Lawson

1904 — Miss Woods

1905 — Mr. Woodall

1906 — Miss Julia Ringwall

1907 — Mr. Price

1908 - 1909 — Miss Julia Ringwall 1909 - 1910 — Miss Julia Ringwall

1910 - 1911 — Miss Andrea Thorson

1911 - 1912 — Miss Minnie Ringwall

1912 - 1913 — Miss Nettie Swenson 1913 - 1914 — Isabella Mclean 1914 - 1915 — Isabella Mclean to Dec. Cora Wagar to end of year

1915 - 1916 — John M. (Jack) Hughes to Dec. C.E. Purdy to end of term.

1916 - 1917 — Mr. M.R. Meldrum

1917 - 1918 — Miss Bertha Shale 1918 - 1919 — John M. (Jack) Hughes

1919 - 1920 — John M. (Jack) Hughes

1920 - 1921 — Olga Sweet and Alace Backhouse to December. Misses Vera and Mabel Garbe to end of term.

1921 - 1922 — Misses Vera and Mabel Garbe

1922 - 1923 - Messrs. George and Carl Stults. Miss Imogene Ferris replaced George Stults toward end of term.

1923 - 1924 — Carl Stults and Imogene Ferris. Arnold Fransen replaced Imogene Ferris after her marriage.

1924 - 1925 — Carl Stults and Miss Ina Fors

1925 - 1926 - Carl Stults and Miss Ina Fors (became Mrs. Ina Anderson)

1926 - 1927 — Carl Stults and Mrs. Ina Anderson, Mr. George O'Grady replaced Mr. Stults last half of term.

1927 - 1928 — Mrs. Embree and Mrs. Ina Anderson

1928 - 1929 — Amy Forester and Peggy Paul 1929 - 1940 — John M. (Jack) and Mrs. Esther Hughes

1940 - 1941 - Mr. Gerald George and Miss Mabel Geary

1941 - 1942 -Mrs. Agnes Dixon and Miss Florence McKenzie

1942 - 1943 — Mrs. Agnes Dixon and Miss Blanche Hanson. Mrs. Agnes Dixon was replaced by Mr. John Puchalak towards end of term.

1943 - 1944 - Mr. Glen McFarlane and Mrs. Ina Anderson

- Mr. Thorn Hawkins and Mrs. Ina 1944 - 1945 -Anderson

1945 - 1946 - Mr. Wilbert Frey and Mrs. Ina Anderson

1946 - 1947 — Mr. Donald O'Conner and Mrs. Ina Anderson. Mr. O'Conner taught only part of the year and Mrs. Anderson finished the year alone. High School students began being bussed to Leduc at beginning of term.

ADDITIONAL HISTORY OF KULM SCHOOL

Compiled by Elsie Erickson

Teachers at the Kulm School were paid as the taxes were collected from the district farmers. There seemed to be no specific time when their salaries were to be paid, but they received it as the district could afford. It was supplemented at times by Government grants. If taxes were slow coming in, sometimes it was necessary to borrow from banks. Interesting figures from the Kulm School District cash book from 1914 to 1926 reveal the following:

1914 - total taxes collected during year including current and arrears \$807.11. Total tax per quarter if paid within certain time period \$13.00. Govt. grant \$281.20. Total salaries paid teacher during year \$515.00. Total paid caretaker during school year \$49.10.

1920 - The amounts in the same columns were \$1668.42.....\$31.70.....\$454.55....\$1500.10 and caretaking \$112.30. The year 1926 increased to \$2,698.70 for tax maoney. Total tax per quarter if paid within certain time \$31.90, govt. grant \$657.50, total salary paid to teacher \$1984.80 and caretaking \$205.09.

The salary paid to sec.-treas. per year was \$42.50 until 1920, when the new addition was built. Then the salary went up to \$75.00 per year. August Johnson held this position until his death in 1914 when S.L. Price finished the year, followed by G.A. Dahl and Chester Johnson. In 1918, W.J. Rye took over the job permanently.

Other expenses were for fuel, insurance, school supplies, building and repair, fencing etc. Two major expenses during this period were for \$1210.00 which the school district paid the Alberta School Supply Co. for the school building and \$340.00 for furniture. In 1920, they paid Ole Modin \$3040.00 for a new addition to the school.

The first well on the new school site was a dug one and records show Tenus Sorenson was paid \$9.00 for digging and curbing it in Jan., 1916. In 1923, they paid Eric Westlund \$142.15 for drilling a new well. The pump and pipe cost \$68.65. In 1920, they paid Carl Lindgren \$25.00 for an organ.

When it became necessary in 1920 to hire two teachers, the taxes for each individual quarter of land

went up from \$14.40 to \$31.70 a year.

THE EDWIN ANDERSON STORY

By Bertha (Anderson) Mader

Clarence Edwin Anderson was born in Lake Lillian, Minnesota in 1895, and was 9 years old when he came with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. L.O. Anderson, to Buford, Alberta in 1904.

No medical services were available closer than Leduc, a distance of 20 miles, consequently many of the first settlers met untimely deaths. Two of his aunts, Brita Carlson and Anna Modin were among them. Being the oldest child of his parents, Edwin's task was not an easy one. Clearing land was a tremendous job in those days, using stump pullers and breaking plows, the kind you walked behind.

The cultivating of the land was mostly done by his brother, Melvin and himself, because his dad started a store and became post-master in 1907. School days were happy days, even though his school supplies only consisted of a slate, slate pencil and a reader. If anyone dared to misbehave they were sent to a corner for what seemed an eternity, or they were given a strapping.

His worst memory as a teenager, would be, I'm sure, the day he became ill with diphtheria. He had been playing ball with his friends at Israel Helgren's place, and feeling tired he lay down on his friend's coat for a rest, oblivious to the fact that it was infected with diphtheria germs. He was quarantined for many days at home, under the care of Doctor Woods from Leduc, who would drive out with his horse and buggy to attend him. Edwin was very fortunate that he recovered, because some of his friends who had contracted the disease did not.

For many years he drove twice a week to Glanville's Store in Leduc for groceries and other necessary supplies. The vehicle was a double boxed wagon with horses, King and Sam.

One of his favourite hobbies was playing the violin and organ. Many evenings would be spent with friends grouped around the organ singing to our hearts content.

On April 15, 1925 he married Bertha Lydia Huber, oldest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Albert Huber. It was a beautiful spring morning. Having no other transportation, Edwin and Bertha left by horses and buggy and drove to Leduc to be married in the Lutheran parsonage by the Reverend W.C. Eifert. Dr.



Wedding Day April 15, 1925 Edwin & Bertha Anderson

H.A. Treadgold and Mary Alice Treadgold both of Leduc were our witnesses. We had our wedding pictures taken at the Bamber Studio, then left by train for Wetaskiwin where we spent our wedding night with a cousin of Edwin's, Andrew Carlson, and his step-mother, Caroline Carlson.

Next morning we went back by train to Leduc, and then on home to my parents, where the reception was



Bertha Anderson; Irene 2 years standing; Lorne 6 months. Spring 1928

held for approximately 75 guests. A dance was held in the barn with Halvarson and Kopang supplying the music.

Edwin rented a half section of land from his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L.O. Anderson, and we lived in a shack 14' x 22' on his mother's quarter. We also had a barn, which enabled us to have a few cattle. Edwin's parents were milking eight cows at the time and decided to give up this chore. We then bought six cows from them. This was our only source of income. We hauled our milk to the cheese factory, approximately 3/4 of a mile away at that time. My parents gave me one cow and three piglets, so in the fall we sold two of them and butchered the other one. This gave us our meat supply for the winter. The following spring we purchased a couple more piglets and as time went on, we had many, so this enabled us to sell a few.

We both cleared land and had it broken. Then there were roots to be picked, so that the land would be ready for seeding the following spring. We were able to do only a little at a time. I remember so well the first piece of breaking which consisted of 10 acres. The wheat, a most beautiful crop, was ready to harvest, when, much to our dismay, a hailstorm completely flattened it. We tried our best to salvage a bit of feed for the pigs and chickens. Andrew Sund came over with his small threshing machine. He threshed three full days, and we only got 190 bushels. This didn't even pay for the gas, let alone the work which was involved. This wasn't the only time we were hailed out. It seemed like every time we had a piece of breaking in crop, we'd have a hailstorm, and believe me there were times we didn't have a penny in the house, until the next milk cheque. However, by living on a farm we always seemed to have enough to eat; milk, eggs, butter, meat, plus growing our own garden - thus we survived. We purchased the quarter we were living on in 1942 from Edwin's mother. Then in about 1945 we bought the quarter from Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Lindberg. This land was previously owned by John Erickson. From then on things seemed to improve. We had a lot of good friends and wonderful neighbors. We both joined the Buford Vasa Lodge #577 in December of 1932, and always looked forward to our once a month meetings and socials.

We were blessed with three very dear children. Our oldest, a daughter, Irene, and two sons, Lorne and Earl.

Just when we thought things were going well, Edwin developed a heart condition and later had a serious heart attack. He passed away on February 18, 1948 at the age of 52. It was a tremendous shock to family and friends. The following year the children and I managed the farm and then it was bought by my son, Lorne. I married John Mader and moved to Edmonton. The children are now all married and have families of their own.

Our daughter Irene married David Haitsma of the Netherlands, who came to Alberta, acquired work for a short time in Pickardville on a dairy farm before



Edwin & Bertha Anderson and Family 1947 Standing — Bertha; Lorne Sitting — Edwin; Irene and Earl

getting work as a cheesemaker in the Glen Park Cheese Factory. They now reside in Red Deer. They have two children; Clarence, who is married and lives in Claresholm, while Joyce lives at Red Deer with Irene and Dave but plans to move to Australia in December 1978.

Loren, our oldest son married Phyllis Lafreniere, whose father is Phil Lafreniere. In June 1948 he took over as Manager of the Glen Park Cheese Factory. They now reside in Spruce Grove. They have four children, Debra, Douglas, Stephen and Sally Ann. Debra is married and has two children and Doug is married and has one child. Both Stephen and Sally Ann are still at home.

Earl, our youngest, was eleven when his father passed away and later moved to Edmonton with me and his step-father John Mader. He is married to Marilynn Smith of Edmonton where they both now reside. They have four children, Lori, Wendy, Graham and Darren. Lori is working in Calgary while the other three are still at home.



Five generations: Ernestine Huber (G.G. Grandmother), Bertha Mader (G. Grandmother), Lorne Anderson (Grandfather), Debra Erickson (Mother), Craig Erickson (Son).

MR. AND MRS. L.O. ANDERSON

By Lillian (Anderson) French

How I wish Mother and Dad were here to relate in person, the hardships, privations, ambitions, sacrifices, enjoyments and grim determination of two pioneers who lived long enough to celebrate their 66th Wedding Anniversary, fifty-seven of those years being spent on their original homestead in Glen Park.

L. Olaf Anderson and Anna Renstrom were born in Gagnef, Dalarna, Sweden. "Ole" on January 1, 1873 and Anna on February 24, 1876. Anna's parents, the Andrew Renstrom's, immigrated to Willmar, Minnesota in 1878. Ten years later, Ole immigrated to Minnesota and worked as a bricklayer in Willmar for six years. To augment his income, he also worked as a farm hand for Mr. and Mrs. Renstrom.



Wedding photo of L.O. Anderson and Anna Renstron, 1894.

On December 14, 1894, my parents were married and for ten years they farmed in Olivia, Minnesota. Four children were born during those years. Edwin, Hilda, Melvin and Grace.

In February of 1904, my parents heard the call of the Frontier and emigrated to Alberta in Canada, "The Land of Milk and Honey." They had a slow but eventful trip by train and arrived in Leduc on February 19, 1904. Several times during the journey, the train got stuck in snow drifts and in order to keep the children warm, Dad would grab their hands and run up and down the aisle. There were no dining or sleeping cars. Everyone carried their lunch with them and at

night they slept on the rough slat seats. Among their few "Settlers Effects", the family carried with them a second hand sewing machine, a spinning wheel, a small table, some chairs and home made quilts.



Settlers before 1905 at L.O. Anderson's store.

They were met at the station by Mr. P.O. Anderson of Calmar, (Earl Erickson's Grandfather), who drove to Leduc in a small cutter. As there was not enough room for the men to ride in the sleigh, they were forced to stand on the runners or run along behind the vehicle until they were exhausted. The snow was deep and the weather bitterly cold, but they had been advised to come in the winter as the roads were next to impassable in the spring. They arrived at Eric and Brita Carlson's in Buford late in the afternoon after travelling a distance of twenty miles. Brita was Dad's sister. The Carlson's, a family of five, lived in a one room log house with only one bed and some bunks. With Dad's family of six, I wonder how they all managed to sleep. This crowded condition prevailed until Dad was able to complete the log house which had been started on the quarter of land that he had purchased from Mr. J.O. Dahl (S.W. 5-49-27-W4). He then went to the Land Office in Edmonton and filed for his homestead. (S.W. 32-48-27-W4). It was on this land on June 18, 1900, that the first Kulm School was registered. The homestead entry fee was \$10.00 with the stipulation that fifteen acres of land had to be cleared and broken each year for three years. There was also a six month residence clause in order to become the owner of 160 acres or one-quarter section of land. Prior to this, a Mr. Helmer Johannson had filed on the S.E. 5-49-27-W4 and so in order to own the south half Section 5, Dad exchanged quarters with

The usual backbreaking work was required to clear the land and Dad welcomed the assistance he received from his nephew, Ole Modin and Ole Holmquist, Andrew Sjoberg and Andrew Sjoden who had also arrived from Sweden. A log barn with a sod roof was built to shelter four horses, two cows, some pigs and a few chickens.

One evening, the family heard a pig squealing unmercifully. They all ran out towards the pasture where a bear was eating one of the pigs. When the bear saw Dad running towards him with a double-barrel gun, he dropped the pig and ran off into the woods. What a pitiful sight it must have been to see that poor pig waddle towards the barn with most of its neck eaten up!

Every night the howling of the coyotes could be heard for hours above the shrieks of the hoot owls and

the croaking of the frogs.

Health and strength were sustained by eating jackfish from Conjuring Lake. Other food consisted of rabbits, partridges, prairie chickens, pickled herring, potatoes, porridge, "velling" and Swedish "hard tack" when homemade bread ran short.

A well was dug for water but the animals had a never-ending supply because Cache Creek wound

itself like a serpent through Dad's land.

Mr. Solberg, who lived about three miles northwest of Dad's place, had started a store and became the first Postmaster in Buford. In 1907, he persuaded Dad to start a store and take over the Post Office as he was younger than many of the first settlers in this Swedish community. This necessitated a 12' x 14' lean-to on the north side of the house for his new business venture. Merchandise was obtained in Leduc from Lowry Glanvilles and it had to be hauled by wagon over the bottomless trails. Some trips would take two to three days. Money everywhere was in short supply, so bank loans were secured from trip to trip. Coffee beans were bought in wooden barrels with a net weight of 100 lbs. Most of the settlers had coffee grinders and after a few years Dad purchased a huge grinder so his customers could buy coffee already ground, if they so desired. Flour was bought only in 100 lb. bags, as was sugar. Dried fruit was sold in bulk in 25 lb. wooden boxes. Eggs were 5¢ a dozen and butter was 15¢ a pound. Cheese was cut from a 25 lb. round slab with a cheese cutter or sold for \$1.50 intact. There was also a cutter for the plug tobacco. Customers would exchange butter and eggs for groceries and tobacco.

As time progressed, Dad purchased the first Kulm schoolhouse which he moved onto his land and converted it to his new store. The year was 1916.



L.O. Anderson family in 1917. Back row, Grace, Melvin, Hilda, Edwin, front row, Florence, Roy, Ole, Anna, Lillian and Rosella.

A log shack which had served as a storehouse previously, was attached to the north end of the school building. As business increased, another room was added to the west side. We shall always remember Mr. and Mrs. Ken Barkley who purchased their dry goods and groceries from Dad from 1925 to 1930 for their store west of Sunnybrook. They came by wagon and stayed overnight. A circular wooden fence was placed around several trees to the south of the store and the customers would tether their horses to these railings. On mail days, it would not be unusual to see 20 to 25 teams in the vard at the same time. "L.O. Anderson's Store" soon became the natural gathering place for the whole community, especially on mail days and Sundays. Not only did they come for mail and groceries, but for fraternizing and the exchange of news, gossip and political opinions. It was like an open political forum to listen to the discussions between Billy Rye (lighting his pipe), Arthur Dahl, John O. Dahl, Rudolph Jonson, Israel Helgren and Chester and Fiallar Johnson, to name a few.

Dad's store was also the stopping place for all the teams and trucks from both east and west, travelling between Breton and Kavanagh on the townline. Many nights, the barn would be bulging with teams of horses and if beds were not available in the house, men and sometimes women were forced to sleep on the floor in the kitchen. It is inestimable the number of free meals that were given to complete strangers. Sometimes there would be an infestation of lice and bed-bugs and Mother would leave no stone unturned until she had eradicated the unwelcome visitors. Coal oil was the treatment and a fine tooth comb.

In later years, groceries were purchased from H.H. Cooper Ltd., hardware from J.H. Ashdown's and Marshall Wells, shoes from Dower Brothers, dry goods from Gault's, fruit from Royal Fruit, meat from Gainer's and Burns in Edmonton. These were hauled in twice a week by Helge Forsberg's truck.

Dad built a smokehouse, so after butchering a pig, pork was stored in salt brine for a few days, then dried off and smoked for a week. He also made an ice house out of an old shed and used sawdust to cover the ice. This had been cut in huge blocks from Conjuring Lake and hauled in before the spring thaw. When there was no ice house, Mother would lower perishables down a shallow well. She made clothes and undergarments from bleached flour and sugar sacks. These sacks were also used for making sheets, tea towels and pillow cases.

"Spinning Bees" were very popular among the women. Usually there would be four or five spinners, as many or more carders and the rest of the women would pick and pull the wool to make it easier for carding. This picking would dislodge any twigs or substances that did not come out when the wool was washed. The hostess would gratefully supply the dinner and lunches as she would invariably get enough yarn spun to last her a year or more. Some preferred to dye the yarn which would then be knit into socks,

stockings, toques and sweaters for the family. These bees were greatly enjoyed as it gave the ladies an opportunity to exchange news, become better acquainted and commiserate with one another. Mother turned out many a warm cozy comforter from wool that we all helped to card on bench carders. These quilts were usually tied with carpet warp as quilting them was too time consuming. Mrs. Evenson from Calmar who was an excellent spinner would spend several weeks visiting Mother every year.

When Mother was in need of extra help with her sewing, Selma (Westlund) Hoffman and Lottie Erickson volunteered to sew dresses for the many daughters, as by 1914, four more children had been born: Florence, Rosella, Roy and Lillian. Another son, Lloyd, who was born in 1921, lived for only three months. We shall never forget the kindness of Amanda Forsberg and Caroline Carlson who, with Mother, stayed up all night in order to immerse his little body in a boiler of warm water every time he suffered a convulsion. Everything that was possible in those days was done to try to save him.

In the winter time, Mother melted snow for three days at a time, to fill two wooden barrels in order to have enough water for wash day on Monday morning. Wood ashes were emptied into water barrels to serve as a bleach for the clothes. They would settle into the bottom of the barrels and the water became very soft. All the clothes were scrubbed on a wash board. The white linens were then placed in two copper boilers on the stove and boiled for several minutes. At times, coal oil or lye would also be added to the water for whitening purposes. Coal oil lamps furnished the light at night and later years saw the advent of the Coleman and Aladdin mantle lamps.

Evenings were especially long so many hours were spent playing King Pedro, Norwegian Whist, Rummy, Cribbage, Euchre, 500, Hearts and Seven-Up. Dad built a new barn around 1915 and during the summer months, barn dances were held once a month. Admission was free and music was supplied by local talent. Invariably, Victor Forsberg played his accordion and Kuno Forsberg played the violin. Eric Kvarnberg and brother Edwin also played violins. Sometimes a collection was taken up for the musicians. How unfortunate that this barn burned down in 1921 presumably from spontaneous combustion, taking with it the lives of one horse and quite a few rabbits and chickens.

There was always an abundance of wild berries and every summer Mother would can over 100 quarts of strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, cranberries, lingon, as well as her garden vegetables. Orange marmalade, jams and jellies, were her specialty. She had a regular routine with her house work every day and although the floors were not painted, they were scrubbed white every Saturday, including the twenty chairs. In the morning, every room was swept and dusted before 9:00 A.M. Breakfast was at seven, dinner at noon, lunch at 3:00 P.M. and supper at six.

Butter was churned, she made her own cottage cheese and primost was made from the whey at the cheese factory. Her home-made bread, buns, doughnuts and bismarcks dipped in white sugar melted in your mouth. Her jelly rolls and white layer cakes with boiled chocolate icing were enjoyed by the scores of people who came every Sunday to play games and visit. In the hot summer, she would concoct a thirst quencher of hops, molasses, brown sugar and water, as no one had heard of soft drinks in those days.

More rooms were added to the house making a total of twelve in all. So these were wallpapered. The glue was made from flour and water. If there were any pieces of wallpaper left over, they were carefully stored away until Christmas. Streamers were then made for Christmas decorations by cutting narrow circles, gluing the ends and interlocking them to form a long a chain as she desired. Spruce boughs with red ribbon bows were hung on doors and windows. Santa Claus cookies were always devoured by the hungry children. I also recall the intricate beaded curtain Mother made for the large open doorway between the dining room and the parlor. She cut triangular pieces of colored wall paper about a foot long and three inches wide tapering to a point. These were rolled from the wide end toward the pointed end, then shellacked and threaded on a cord long enough to reach from the top of the wide doorway to the floor. Each succeeding length would be a bit shorter than the last until the centre of the doorway was reached and then similar lengths were made for the opposite side. All lengths were fastened on a rod and large coloured beads were added to separate each bauble.

Christmas concerts were one of the most popular events of the year and those who did not own a sleigh would walk for miles to attend the concert. They would step aside on the narrow roads to let a team pass by and the ringing of the sleigh bells would permeate the crisp air into the far distance. The "Rolls Royce" for the summertime was a democrat with spring seats—a far cry from the posh velvet seats in the vehicles of later years.

If anyone became ill, mustard plasters, goose oil, turpentine and a wool rag were a sure cure for most ailments. As a tonic, there was nothing like "Kuriko", "Lydia E. Pinkham's" and "Ole-Oid". The Asiatic flu, diphtheria, Scarlet fever, polio, whooping cough, measles and chicken pox were diseases to be reckoned with.

From 1911 to 1920, community picnics were held at Dad's place which helped immediately to relieve the monotomy of the settlers lives. Everyone participated in the activities. There were wheelbarrow races, sack races, foot races, egg races, pig races, three-legged races, tug-of-wars and ball games. The ladies would bring picnic lunches and coffee was made in large boilers. Mother was invariably elected to make the coffee as she had a special way of making it. She mixed an egg with the coffee grounds, shell and all, tied these in a cheese cloth bag and dropped it into the boiling

water, with a pinch of salt. This made delicious, clear coffee.

Dad bought his first Model T Ford in 1916 complete with side curtains which buttoned down. The first Gramophone was purchased in the 1920's. He took over the Buford Post Office in 1907 and after the Lacombe Northwestern Railway was completed in March of 1932, the name of the Post Office and the District had to be changed due to the new Buford Post Office and hamlet at the siding four miles north. There was great consternation for a day or two, but Dad, in consultation with Helge Forsberg, remembered that the cheese factory which had been started by Dan Weiting in 1913, was called the Glen Park Cheese Factory. Thus the district became Glen Park as the name had been submitted to the postal department and was accepted. This change-over took place on December 2, 1939. Rudolph Helgren delivered mail on horse-back from August Salstrom's Post Office in Thorsby to the Buford Post Office for five years from 1908 to 1913. Carl Lindgren was mail carrier between Calmar and Buford from 1910 to 1926. Although he had to combat the trails on a timetable, he was rarely late with the mail. Andrew Blomquist then became the rural carrier from 1929 to 1948. Knut Ole Anderson delivered mail from Dnipro, Warburg, Keystone and Sunnybrook. Telephones were not general so messages were delivered to the people in the community. Our telephone number was R1909 and this number was never changed so it will always remain an indelible number in our minds.

In the evenings Dad would sit by a coal oil lamp reading his newspaper "The Canada Tidings," "Svenska Tribunen" and in later years the Edmonton Bulletin. He never wore glasses and never visited a dentist. He did not have false teeth. He often said, "My daily chew of snuff keeps my mouth healthy".



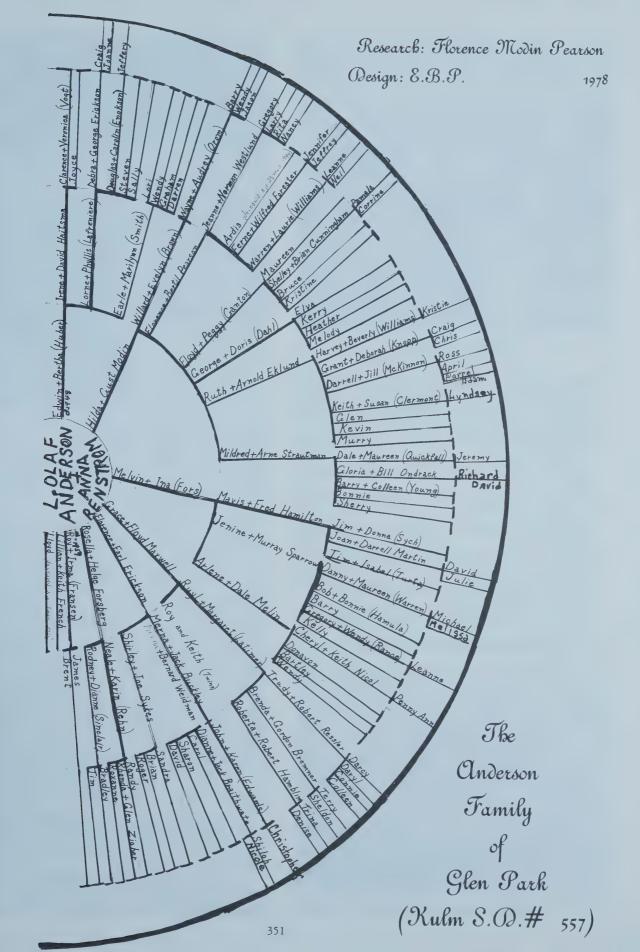
Anderson daughters about 1936. Left to Right kneeling; Rosella, Grace, Hilda, top; Florence and Lillian.

Dad assisted many farmers during their pioneering and depression days and never refused help when it was needed. Throughout his life he displayed a genuine concern for his fellow man. When he retired from business and sold his store to son Roy in 1948, his accounts receivable exceeded \$10,000.00.

On December 14, 1944, a reception was held at home on the occasion of my parents Golden Wedding Anniversary. 150 people called to see them. Ten years later over 300 came to the Glen Park Community Hall for a banquet held in honor of their Diamond Jubilee. They lived long enough to see their 66th Anniversary. Another occasion worthy of note was Dad's 90th birthday celebration at the same hall when another



Neighbors come to shop at Anderson's Store on Sunday. Mr. Anderson, Charlie Weiting, Mr. & Mrs.
Oscar Jonson, Chester & Fjaller Johnson & Mother, Mrs. Aug. Johnson, Edwin & Julius Dahl, Melvin &
Ferdinand Dahl.



packed house attested to his popularity. My parents had indeed lived long enough to witness some of the fruits of their labor being enjoyed by the younger generation.



Mr. & Mrs. L.O. Anderson 65th Wedding Anniversary 1959

Mother and Dad had nine children who were all born at home with the help of a midwife.

Edwin — Married Bertha Huber; lived in Glen Park, Deceased Feb. 18, 1948.

Hilda — Married Gust Modin; Bruce and Glen Park; Now residing in Calmar.

Melvin — Married Ina Fors; Residing in Edmonton.

Grace — Married Floyd Maxwell; Residing in Edmonton.

Florence — Married Earl Erickson; Residing in Kelowna, B.C.

Rosella — Married Helge Forsberg; Residing in Edmonton.

Roy — Married Irma Fransen; Glen Park; Deceased July 7, 1958.

Lillian — Married Keith French; Residing in Hanna.

Lloyd — Passed away in 1921 at the age of three months.

Mother passed away October 15, 1961. Dad passed away October 28, 1964. At the time of their demise, they also had 21 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren and 4 great, great-grandchildren.

I think they earned the plaudit,

"Well done Thy good and faithful servants" — MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE

THE LIFE OF MELVIN & INA ANDERSON WEST OF LEDUC

By their daughter Mavis Hamilton

Melvin was born in Minnesota in 1899 and came to the Buford district when he was 5 years old. His parents, Mr. & Mrs. L.O. Anderson, farmed and started a store and operated the Buford Post Office. Melvin learned to milk cows and work on the land, but he loved best to work in his father's store. He often made trips to Leduc by team to get merchandise. The roads were often muddy and in the spring the creeks overflowed the bridges on the Blind Line, which is now Highway 39.

Melvin would leave home at 5 a.m. and get back at 10 p.m. if all went well. Later his dad bought a 1919 Ford truck, so Mel drove that. He often spent many hours stuck in the mud, or pulling others out, yet he learned his father's business even though it was the hard way.

Ina Cecelia Anderson was also of pioneer stock. Her parents, John and Selma Fors were of Swedish-Finnish nationality from North Dakota. In the summer of 1901 John Fors and his wife, with 3 children, came by train to Leduc. Like many other pioneers they brought their livestock and a wagon and horses with them. They travelled by wagon over stumps and through mud holes for 15 miles to kind friends, the Fredericksons. Calmar friends helped them put up a two-room shack on their homestead. It was in that shack that Ina Fors was born., the first Canadian in the Fors family.

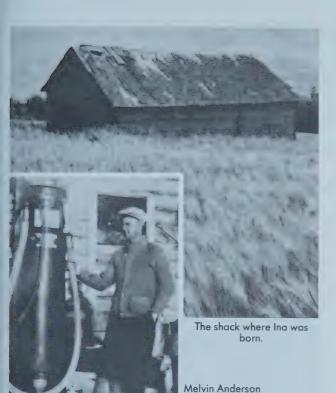
There were many trying years for the family, especially for her mother, who had eight children in all. Yet they were able to help two daughters and a son to take up the teaching profession.

Ina first taught school at Humble School and Groveland. In 1923 she applied for the Kulm School. Mr. William Rye was secretary. It was a two-room school. She had grades 1 to 4. Mr. Carl Stultz taught the other room, grades 5 to 9.

Mr. John Scoffield was the inspector that year. Ina had 30 pupils and received a salary of \$75.00 a month. Sometimes she was paid a little at a time. She remembers some special pupils as Florence Modin, Evert and Tim Forsberg, the Nystrom children, the Larsons, Sunds, Olsons and Ericksons. They all learned their 3 R's very well. They also had good times together. Ina played soft ball or baseball with them, and had many school picnics. In December they had the expected Christmas Programs. The children were excellent singers and the teacher used the old organ to advantage. She remembers the twins-Breffany and Tiffany Sorenson's duets very well. There were some mischievous ones, too. Ina had the old leather strap handy but cannot remember using it that year. One day Ina had used her dad's old Chev to get to school, and some of the boys filled the radiator with sticks and straw. After a good lesson on the "Golden Rule" all the boys diligently helped to clean it

During the beautiful days in September Ina Fors rode horseback to school, a distance of six miles. The children would run to meet her, anxious to be the first to give the horse his oats.

It was on one of these mornings that Ina met Melvin Anderson's truck on the Town Line. The horse jumped the ditch and galloped all the way to Kulm



School. Another morning, Mel stopped the truck and held the horse's bridle, so they became acquainted. This finally developed into a lasting friendship. They both liked sports; she played basketball and fastball with the Buford team, Mel played baseball with Buford, Conjuring Creek and Antross. He was often called "Home run Anderson". He ran in long distance races in Leduc and no one at those picnics could beat him in the standing broad jump. Mel and Ina enjoyed the picnics together, taking in many of the barn dances afterwards. That was a happy summer.

at Weed Creek.

When winter came, Ina boarded at John Ericksons. Their children Earl, Ilene, Gordon, Alice and Helen attended the Kulm School. In the spring the Cache Creek overflowed and the boards on the bridge were bobbing up and down. The teacher had to cross to get to school. The children on the other side of the creek had come to help. Mr. Carl Stultz, the other teacher, came with his horse. He helped them all across. They walked as far as they could on the floating logs and he grabbed them onto his horse.

Another time after a heavy rain, Ina was stuck in the mud with her rubber boots. One of the boys came by with his horse and buggy and lifted her out, but the boots were left in the mud.

The next winter Ina boarded with Oscar Jonsons. After the Christmas Concert, Dec. 24, 1925, Melvin and Ina drove to Edmonton in Mel's 1922 Ford Coupe and were married. Ina moved to live at the Anderson home and lived there for two years.

In 1927 they bought the Weed Creek store from William Zingel and moved to the Weed Creek District. Melvin operated a general store of his

own. He had a good business (using his own expression, "A Roaring Business" (He bought things in trade, like 15,000 tamarack rails, 20,000 hides, weasels, coyotes, rabbits and horse tails). He had good customers. He mentions Zeiners, Stellmakers, Pasulas, Dools, Helfensteins, and we cannot begin to name them all. There were no dull moments. Mel and Ina lived at the back of the store in two rooms, where people could walk in any time. At night Ina could hear the men after store hours, playing cards. Sometimes Mr. Ed Brosman, the blacksmith, would entertain by playing his fiddle. Some favorite selections were "Oh Dem Golden Slippers" or "Doodle-De-Dee".

The store never seemed to close. Mel waited on customers at any hour. If loggers came by at 2 a.m. in the morning he let them sleep on the floor of the store if they had a long distance to go. It was like a mid-west hitching post. They would sit on the wooden nail kegs and munch their crackers while they chatted. Ina couldn't resist teaching and applied for the Weed Creek School which was a one-room school just across the road from the store. She had 50 pupils in grades 1 to 8 in 1927 and 1928. They had to write Departmental exams in those days. She especially remembers Frances Madiuk who passed grade 8 that year. She taught the Pasula twins, John and Mike and has many interesting experiences which would fill a book of its own. Yet the years went by and things began to change.

The railway was being built from Breton to Leduc. Melvin closed the Weed Creek Store. Thorsby was growing. Mel decided to buy William Zingel's store at Calmar so Mrs. Anderson quite teaching for 12 years in order to give her time to her children, Mavis, Jenine and Arlene.

Then came the hungry '30's. Melvin closed the store in Calmar and tried selling Fuller and Rawleigh products. These were difficult years and the family suffered. In 1941 there was a shortage of teachers, in fact no teacher for her own children, so Ina started all over again. She attended the 1941 Summer-School Session in Edmonton and got acquainted with the



Melvin's Ford Coupe May 24, 1925.

Division I, II, and III work in Enterprise. She began teaching again in an ungraded school at Bonnie Glen and lived in a one-room teacherage with her 3 children and had 31 pupils in grades 1 to 8. It was then in the Wetaskiwin Division and Mr. Scoffield was still the inspector.

In the meantime, Buford Post Office had changed to Glen Park. Melvin Anderson's brother Roy had been called overseas so Melvin operated his store until he returned. They had a good business and Melvin bought a little house from Eric Kvarnberg and moved it to an acreage he had bought from his dad. The family came home and the children went to the Kulm School where Amy Forster and Peggy Paul were teaching.

Ina Anderson again began teaching at Weed Creek in 1942. It was now in the Strawberry Division with two rooms. Mrs. Anderson had grades 1 to 4 and Mr. John Symyrozum taught grades 5 to 9. Mrs. Anderson enjoyed her classes very much that year. She preferred the lower grades. She remembers the Forsters, Dedios and Zingles. A very special pupil was Harvey Zingle, who is now well known as Dr. Harvey Zingle of the University of Alberta.

Nevertheless, getting to school from Glen Park, a distance of four miles was trying in the winter. When the roads drifted shut, they had to use the horses and sleigh. Mrs. Anderson suffered from the cold. One night after a big snow storm she stayed in the attic above the school overnight where she got acquainted with the bats.

In 1943 she applied for the Kulm School again. It was now in the Clover Bar Division with Mr. J.J. Leblanc as inspector. It was still the old school grades 1 to 4. Mr. Hawkins taught the grades 5 to 9. Later on Mr. O'Conner taught for awhile. He was surprised one morning when the old long stove-pipe fell down. He left the school that year in the middle of the term so Mrs. Anderson had to take all the grades. She took extra grade 8 classes at her home to help them finish their grade 8 course.

By 1947 the new school was being built and the old 2-room school was sold to Henry Huber to be used as a chicken house. In 1948 the children and Mrs. Anderson were happy to move into the new one-room stucco school. It had a good furnace, and a beautiful hardwood floor. Mrs. Anderson taught at that school for 12 more years, and enjoyed her classes more than ever. She was teaching the children of her former pupils. They often called her "Grandma", but she loved that. She had a majority of bright students that year. One year they entered the Edmonton Festival and won an award for the best entry in that age group. She remembers Dyllis and Arlene Johnson, Marilyn and Eldon Hoyem, Fern and Warren Pearson Bendoritis, Yachimetz, Popiks, Hubers, Olsons and many more.

One year she received a bonus of \$120.00 for having over 35 pupils. There was a gradual rise in the salary from \$1600 minimum to \$5000. She was receiving \$100 a year extra for past experience. She

taught grades 1 to 7, and the higher grades were transported by bus to Calmar.

Finally Kulm School was in the Leduc Division with inspectors Cyril Pyrch, Arthur Elliott and J.H. Finlay.

Melvin and Ina's 3 daughters all finished their grade 12 in Calmar. Jenine and Mavis took up the teaching profession. Mavis (now Mrs. Hamilton) taught at Telfordville for 2 months and at Weed Creek for a year. At present she is teaching at Thorsby. Jenine is now Mrs. Murray Sparrow of Leduc and Arlene is Mrs. Dale Melin of Edmonton.

In 1959 Ina resigned at Kulm School and they moved to Edmonton. She taught there for nine years and retired from teaching in 1968. She taught approximately 1000 children to read and spent 34 years of her life as a teacher in Alberta, 24 of those years around Glen Park and Thorsby Districts.



Wedding 1925 Melvin & Ina Anderson



Melvin's family at their wedding anniversary; Arlene, Melin, Melvin, Mavis Hamilton, Jenine Sparrow, Ina Anderson.

Melvin and Ina Anderson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Northern Alberta Old Timer's Cabin in Dec. of 1975 with 200 guests.

They now have 12 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. The little cottage at Glen Park is still there where they enjoy the summers. The old hand pump, wood stove and buck-saw are still there so the grandchildren can understand and appreciate the life of the early pioneers.

Editor's note. Melvin Anderson died in October 1978.

THE ROY ANDERSON FAMILY

by Irma Fransen Anderson Skjersven

Roy Willard Anderson was born at Glen Park (then Buford) on August 12, 1911, the son of Mr. and Mrs. L.O. Anderson. Like most young fellows of that time, school was not his dish. Roy had a genuine affinity for sports. He loved to play baseball, hockey, to toboggan, ski, swim and in later years, curl. In his youth these various activities were done at Conjuring Lake (Wizard Lake), Bucking Horse Lake and Cache Creek. Roy was able to persuade his dad to let him make a skating rink back of the machine shed on their yard and young folks from miles around came to skate and play hockey. Roy was prominent in baseball as one of the pitchers for the Buford baseball team who made a creditable name for themselves in league play as well as at tournaments.

During World War II, Roy served with the Sault St. Marie and Sudbury regiment; the Regina Rifles in France, Holland and Belgium and the Canadian Army of Occupation at Aurick, Germany. This stint covered the period from January 19, 1944 until April 12, 1946.

Upon his being discharged from the armed forces, Roy purchased the general store from his father. Once again in civilian life he took up his sports along with his work. Roy also took up courting of a young lass, whose grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Leander Fransen and Mr. and Mrs. P.O. Anderson, true pioneers, having arrived in the Calmar district from Delmar, North Dakota, U.S.A., in May of 1899. Irma Fransen, daughter of Francis and Vera Fransen of Calmar, Alberta, was united in marriage to Roy Anderson, July 9, 1947. Irma had attended high school in Calmar and Alberta College in Edmonton.



Lumber Trucks at L.O. Anderson's Store, the halfway stop at Glen Park townline highway.



Wedding party of Roy Anderson and Irma, July 1947, Attendants, Ruth Modin and Lester Fransen.

Marriage brought more challenges, such as a home, which was acquired by purchasing the former Palm Dairies cheese factory site after fire had destroyed the cheese factory at Glen Park in May of 1950. Our first son, James Leroy was born on June 13, 1952; no prouder father ever walked the earth than Roy.

During the summer and fall of 1953, Roy began to build a new store on his own property, moving into the premises in January of 1954. Business was good and time flew by, things seemed to be going our way. Little did we know what the future had to offer.

On the afternoon of May 8, 1956, our home was destroyed by fire. Every worldly possession other than one bedspread, one quilt, one sheet, plus the clothes on our backs went up in smoke and flames. That was a day I will never forget, the feeling of complete loss, not as much as a roof over our heads. Roy's parents were very generous in letting us stay with them until we got things sorted out and made living quarters in the warehouse space of the store. I shall also never forget our friends and neighbors' generosity at the shower held for us at the Glen Park hall. Needless to say after the course of the evening was over we had many of the necessities a home requires to set up some form of organized housekeeping.

At this time I was pregnant and our second son, Francis Brent was born on June 18, 1956. Another day of jubilation for Roy, he was a lover of children. His thoughts for them were in the sports field, and I quote, "now I have the battery for a baseball team." Little did he suspect that his ambition for them would never be realized.

Roy had gotten a taste of farming during those years of our married life, as he with the help of my brother, Lester Fransen, rented and worked land together. Roy decided that farming just was not that bad an occupation so began to negotiate with his dad and the Department of Veteran's Affairs to purchase the land from his parents. The papers were signed in the fall of 1957 and Roy had another adventure in life to conquer.



Roy, James, Irma and baby Brent Anderson in 1957.

Roy's health began to decline in January of 1958 and through the next few months he was in and out of the hospital. It was a great shock to the community when Roy passed away on July 7, 1958. Roy's passing on was hard for us to accept, but life goes on in spite of everything else.

I had to pick up the pieces and carry on as best I could. I had our two sons to raise, plus a living to make for the three of us. The task of operating the store, post office and the farm, along with having a home built in 1960, kept me very busy. Things ran fairly smoothly until January of 1969, - the Department of Postal Affairs saw fit to phase out most smaller post offices in favor of extended rural mail delivery, thus the Glen Park Post Office ceased to exist. The closing of the post office saw a decline in business for the store, so consequently I sought other employment and in July of 1969 the "Anderson" store closed its doors to the public. I began working for the Town of Calmar as secretary-treasurer, thus terminated serving the community of Glen Park. The building which housed the "Anderson" store was sold and moved to Calmar to become the drop in center for the Calmar & District Senior Citizens Club.



The Roy Anderson store building being readied for removal to Calmar where it became the senior citizens centre in 1974.

Our sons are now grown up, working and living in Edmonton. James has his journeyman's ticket as a partsman and Brent is a judicial clerk with the Department of the Attorney General for the Province of Alberta. I had met George Skjersven, another wonderful person, whom I married in 1974. We live at Glen Park and so ends my story as of September 30, 1978.

ANDREW BECK FAMILY

By Ed Wurban

Andrew (Anders) Beck was born April 12, 1887 the eldest son of Anders and Sarah (Anderson) of Gagnef, Dalorna, Sweden.

He had 7 brothers and sisters. One brother Erick and a sister Anna are still living in Sweden. Five who have since passed on were: Olle Beck, Kristina Buller, Maria Ollson, and her twin sister Carolina, and a sister Anna.

Andrew served in the Swedish Army in the early 1900's and worked as a bricklayer for several years in Stockholm, Sweden.

At the age of 24 years (in 1911) Andrew immigrated to Canada along with 4 of his cousins — Gustav Modin, Axel Modin, Olaf Modin and L. Andrew Pearson. They all went directly to their uncle Olaf Anderson's at Glen Park, Alberta.

For the next few years Andrew was employed west of Edmonton on the Grand Truck Railway. Later he was at Bull River, B.C. in a sawmill where he was a flunkie.

He moved on to Bruce, Alberta where he bought land and farmed. All his field work was done with horses. He worked on the threshing machine for his cousin's husband, (Ole Erickson) for several years.

In 1929 Andrew Beck met and married Betty Olive Johnson, daughter of the late Peter and Mathilda Johnson of Kulm North Dakota, U.S.A.

Betty was born in Kulm, N.D. on Sept. 5, 1895. She had 3 brothers; Carl Bradford, John Johnson, and Herman Johnson, and 2 sisters, Helga Anderson and Hilma Johnson.

The Peter Johnson family emigrated to the U.S.A. in the early 1890's from Smotrask, Vesterbotten, Sweden, with 3 children. Three were born in Kulm, N. Dakora.



Andrew Beck with daughter Olive and son-in-law Reinold Ankerstein and grandchildren Lorne, Susan, Donna and Clara.





Andrew and Betty Beck with daughters Olive and Marie.

Andrew Beck with his father and mother in 1890's, Anders and Sarah.

Andrew and Betty Beck had 2 daughters; Olive Rosella born in Bruce, Alberta on May 15, 1933 and Betty Marie also born in Bruce on Sept. 10, 1935. They attended East Bruce and the Bruce town school.

In 1945 after years of drought Andrew sold his land in Bruce and purchased a quarter of land in the Glen Park district, near Bucking Horse Lake. He bought the land from Victor Flodin. The Beck family moved to Glen Park district in Jan. of 1945, where they rented land from Victor Flodin and lived in the one-room house on the yard (the farm where Algot Dahlbeck's live now). The family lived there for 2 years until they got a house and barn built on their land. They moved to their own farm in 1947.

The girls attended Lake Centre and Calmar Schools.

In 1951, their eldest daughter Olive married Reinold Ankerstein son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Adolf Ankerstein of the Willow Creek district. They had 2 sons; Lorne Reinold and Clare Elwood, and 2 daughters; Susan Olive and Donna Mae. They lived in the Willow Creek district. Olive passed away in Jan. 1966 at the age of 32 years.

In 1953, the youngest daughter Betty Marie, married Edward Wurban, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wurban of the Willow Creek district. They have 4 sons and 1 daughter; Darrel Edward, Terry Wayne, Glenn Stanley, Eldon James, and Audrey Joan.

In 1958 Andrew Beck sold his farm to his son-in-law and daughter, Ed and Marie Wurban. The Becks retired into a smaller house on the yard, where they lived until his wife, Betty passed away in 1962. He continued living with his daughter's family.

In 1962, after 51 years in Canada, he made a return visit to his homeland, Sweden, where he was re-united with his 4 remaining brothers and sisters and their families. He made another trip back to Sweden in June of 1966.

Andrew was a 25 year member of the Buford Vasa Lodge.

He was in good health and could out-walk many younger than himself. Many also commented about his wonderful memory. Andrew celebrated his 85th birthday in Apr. 1972 and passed away Sept. 19, 1972.

Three of their grandchildren are now married. Susan Ankerstein married Dennis Sekora in 1973, son of the late Fred Sekora and Ivy (Romanko) of the Glen Park district. Susan and Dennis have 2 children; a son Korbin Theodore Dion and a daughter Shelan Rae (great-grandchildren of Andrew and Betty Beck). The Dennis Sekora family reside in the Glen Park district.

In 1974, a grandson Darrell Wurban married Betty Mielnichuk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Mielnichuk of Edmonton, Alberta. They have a daughter — Tina Marie born in 1976. She is the granddaughter of Edward and Marie Wurban of Glen Park, and the great-granddaughter of Betty and Andrew Beck. The Darrell Wurban family resides in Beaumont, Alberta.

In 1975, another granddaughter Audrey Wurban married Gary Seehagen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Seehagen of Edmonton. They reside in Edmonton, Alberta.

Edward and Marie Wurban, along with their sons still manage the Beck family farm located 4 miles west and 7½ miles south of Calmar in the Glen Park district.



Daughter Marie, son-in-law Edward Wurban and children, daughter-in-law, son-in-law and granddaughter. Tina the little girl is a great grandchild to Becks'.

THE JOSEPH BENDORITIS FAMILY

by Angela (Bendoritis) Pearson

Joe and Annie Bendoritis and their 4 children, Alphonse, John, Constantine (Gus) and myself, Angela, moved from Bluffton, Alberta to the Buford, (now Glen Park) district in May, 1935. (S.E. 36-48-28-W4)

Dad had immigrated to Canada from Lithuania in 1928. He had worked on farms and on the railroad in the Ponoka and Bluffton areas since his arrival in Canada. He had also worked for Nick Sendziak of Buford in 1930. In 1932 Dad sent for his wife and 2 young children and we lived in a small house near Bluffton.



1929 from Lithuania sent to Mr. Bendoritis. Angelia, Mrs. Bendoritis, and Alphonse. This is the first Mr. Bendoritis saw his son Alphonse.

In working for Mr. Sendziak, Dad had met quite a number of people in the Thorsby area and decided to move his family here to start a new life. With the help of a neighbor, Floyd Straine of Bluffton, a team of horses and a wagon, Dad moved our belongings, a few chickens and 14 hogs in 2 trips. With the last load they also drove 8 head of cattle the 50 miles, stopping at Westrose overnight to feed the cattle and rest a while. Mom and we children came to Thorsby by train. We were met by the Karpa brothers, Joe and Pete, who at that time were the blacksmiths of the village. As Mom could not speak very much English it was a real treat for her to be met by Lithuanians. Arrangements had been made for us to spend the night with another Lithunaian family, the Joe Frankos, before moving into our new home 7½ miles south-east of Thorsby. Dad had rented the buildings on the Charlie Champion farm, the former Carl Ludwic (Lud) Nystrom place, and the rent was \$25.00 per year.

The house was an old log building consisting of one large room, a bedroom and pantry. Upstairs we had 2 rooms and storage space. Although it was nearing the end of May we managed to plant and raise an abundant garden that summer. It must have been the right moon for planting. Mom still plants her gardens by the moon, weather permitting, and manages to raise lovely gardens. There was very little money those days. The income from the cows amounted to \$5.00 per week. Dad brushed 15 acres of land for Mr. Champion that first summer and was paid \$8.00 an acre. He also worked for Nick Sendziak in the fall on the threshing crew and received \$2.50 a day for the team, wagon and himself. In Sept. I started my schooling at Kulm School with Mrs. Esther Hughes teaching. I walked 1½ miles to school and remember walking among snow drifts much higher than myself. The older neighbor children always broke trail for us smaller children. A secondhand fur-type coat I had received from our landlord, Mr. Champion, kept me warm. Footwear was not very good and cold feet seemed quite a common complaint.

The following 2 years Dad rented the land from Mr. Champion on crop share basis. He had bought an old horse plow and rented a seed drill and binder in exchange for work. The first years the hay was cut with a scythe and Mom would rake it with a wooden rake

and stack it up by fork in small stacks.

In 1938 Mr. Champion decided that he would sell the farm for \$3000.00 with a \$1000.00 down payment. With a loan from a friend, my parents managed to gather up enough money for the down

payment and bought the quarter of land.

Doing our chores was very hard work as there was only one well dug on the farm and not enough water for both the house and the cattle. Water was hauled in 1/4 mile with a horse-drawn stoneboat and barrels from a spring well on the Rudolph Johnson farm. For the winter months, wood had to be cut for the stoves and coal was brought in from the north mine at Conjuring Lake. The meat supply was butchered on the farm and some meat was home cured. Every October we made a barrel of sauerkraut which was our main source of Vitamin C in the winter months. We always seemed to have enough food for the family. Occasionally Dad would shoot a big jack rabbit for Sunday dinner which was a real treat. Necessities such as sugar, coffee, soap etc. were bought mainly at Anderson's Store in Glen Park and once in a while we shopped in Thorsby. Mom made and altered most of our clothing and knit the socks and mittens. Washing clothes for 4 children was a big job on the scrub board.

In 1939 Mom and Dad were blessed with their second daughter, Leona, who was brought into the world by Dr. Hankin at the Thorsby Hospital. When the war started the economy seemed to pick up and we were able to save enough money to drill a well. What a

relief not to have to haul water anymore.

There did not seem to be very much leisure time for our parents. With any spare time they wrote letters

to the old country and Dad enjoyed reading the newspaper he was receiving from Lithuania. On Sundays, when company dropped by, they would play cards. Games such as Rummy, Hollow and King Pedro were popular. Only the necessary chores were done on Sunday and when we could, the family attended the Roman Catholic Church in Thorsby. Transportation was by horse team and wagon or sleigh. We older children were thrilled to be able to attend midnight mass on a frosty, moonlit Christmas Eve. To keep warm we were wrapped in blankets with some heated sadirons at our feet. There was the occasional home party with other local Lithuanians where they danced to the music of the harmonica and enjoyed a little 'homebrew'. Another time of excitement was when our bachelor friends, the Karpas, would take the family on a picnic to Pigeon Lake in their car.

During the summer holidays we spent our time herding cows, picking berries and playing ball. We children found excitement in drowning gophers and selling their tails. We also sold magpie and crow legs. The main winter sports were skating and hockey.

In 1940 we bought our first battery operated radio. This was listened to very sparingly for news and the Don Messer program. I'll never forget our first gas lamp. When we started it for the first time, the mantle caught fire. Mom tried to blow the fire out and in doing so made a hole in the mantle. She then tried to repair it by sewing it but the mantle fell apart. We went back to Anderson's Store the next day for more mantles and after a better study of the directions, we had light.



Bendoritis Family, 1946.
Back row: Angela, Mr. Bendoritis, Mrs. Bendoritis, John, Alphonse.
Front row: Gus, Leona and Shirley.

The youngest daughter, Shirley, was born at the University Hospital, Edmonton, in 1943. Shirley attended Kulm, Wilton Park and Calmar Schools.

In 1944 the price of wheat went up to \$1.00 a bushel and hogs were a fair price so the folks bought the Hilbert and Berger Forsberg quarter for \$7,500—the farm adjoining the homeplace. They bought a tractor, an old Massey Harris Pacemaker, from Ernie Huber. Their first truck was purchased in 1948, a one-ton Studebaker.

In April 1949 I married Lloyd Pearson. We farm near Calmar on NE 16-49-27-W4 and have 3 children.



Joe Bendoritis proud owner of a new John Deere tractor, 1948.

Elaine, David and Danny. In 1950 my parents built a new house on the Forsberg place. The lumber was shipped by train to the railroad station at Buford and cost \$45.00 per thousand square feet. The contractor for the house was Nick Senechko. In 1951 the eldest son, Alphonse passed away following a kidney ailment.



In 1954 Mom and Dad bought 2 quarters of land from John Hirsekorn. When John married Thilly Termeulen in June, 1958, the newlyweds made their home on the Hirsekorn farm. John and Thilly have 4 children, Kathy, Mark, Jane and Marianne. Leona married Ernie Fix in June 1961 and they live in Leduc and their 2 children, Debbie and Mitchell. On December 1961, Gus married Adele Kunigiskis. They took over the homeplace and still live there with their

6 children, Connie, Roxanne, Bonnie, Joanne, Christopher and Paul. At present Gus and Adele are part owners of the U-Save Foodliner and the Casual Fashions and Notions store in Thorsby.

Mom and Dad moved to Leduc in 1962. Shirley married Larry Krause in 1964. They have 2 sons, Jerrett and Shannon. Dad still helps the boys on the farm in the summer months and Mom is busy with her garden, canning and general housework. They enjoy frequent visits from their family and many friends. On October 16th, 1976, our parents celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with their children and 17 grandchildren. In August, 1978 they visited their homeland, Lithuania. It was Dad's fiftieth year in Canada and coincidentally he arrived in Halifax on August 4, 1928 and returned to Lithuania on August 4, 1978.

THE WILLIAM BURGESS FAMILY

by Eva Burgess (Mrs. Wm.)

William and his brother Lawrence were sons of a pioneer farm family. Their parents, Ralph Burgess and Elizabeth Lawrence, were married in Staffordshire, England March 30, 1892 and set sail for Edmonton, Canada the next day. They farmed or homesteaded on the land where Sherwood Park is now situated. When Ralph and Elizabeth's first baby was born, an Indian lady was her midwife and she made a mossbag for the baby. In 1903, after many hardships and the loss of three children in infancy, they returned to England along with Elizabeth's brother, Thomas Lawrence, who had come to the Leduc-Rabbit Hill country in 1882. Having heard of the great adventures of their Uncle Tom and hearing from their father of the opportunities which could be waiting across the ocean, there not being many in England, the boys decided to seek their fortune in the land where once their parents had lived.

William, (born Oct. 15, 1905), and Lawrence (July 21, 1903) immigrated to Canada, arriving in Edmonton in May 1928. After working on the farms of Wm. Simmons and John W. Petterson from June until after threshing, they each bought a quarter-section of raw land namely the S.E. 15-48-27-W4 and N.E. 16-48-27-W4. On N.E. 16 there was a shack and in this they made their home and set up batching something new to both of them.

They proceeded to cut brush and trees all winter and the next summer cleared and broke 40 acres, cutting heavy timbers with their trusty axes and a five-horse team to pull the 16-inch breaking plow. The next year, another 40 acres were broken. In 1931 all the wonderful crop of wheat was struck down completely by a hailstorm.

By sheer determination they continued on. They went out harvesting, stooking and threshing in the fall to make ends meet. They received mail at Buford post office which is now Glen Park, the name of the cheese factory which was situated near there.



Breaking on Burgess farm with Jess, Minnie, Dixie, Dan, Babe and Speed. SE 15-48-27 W4th.



Lawrence Burgess and horses, Babe & Dan NE 16-48-27 W4.



Lawrence Burgess home, 1928.

I, Eva Bell, came to the Conjuring Lake District April 17, 1917 with my parents Bruce and Zelma Bell, my brother Tom and sister Salina. Four more girls were born later. I rode horseback many miles in dense bush rounding up cattle those days.

Bill and I were married New Year's Day, 1934 at my family home and we settled on the S.E. 15-48-27-W4. The "dirty thirties" were upon us all then and Bill fashioned our furniture, tables, benches, cupboards, etc. from bits and pieces of lumber left over after building our modest house. A bridal shower the ladies of the community held for me provided many of those much needed articles for our home.

The gift of a cow and calf from my parents started a milking herd and the stock gradually grew to include

chickens and geese and a few pigs. A prized possession was a collie dog which my aunt sent, as a wedding present, all the way from Vancouver. All these animals required a barn, (which was made of poles fashioned together with straw between them and more straw on top for a roof) which leaked for a week after it stopped raining during summer showers. Later, logs were cut and sawn at the Andrew Melin sawmill a mile and a half away. Other buildings were added one by one.

These were the days when the men cut trees and hauled them home for firewood, and dug holes in the ground to try to find water. Many were the long cold trips in winter to take a load of grain by sleigh to Calmar or Buford elevators to sell in order to make payments on the farm and buy the necessities of life.

Our son George was born March 7, 1935 in our own home. Daughters are Hilda, born Aug. 13, 1937 and Eileen born Aug. 22, 1938 in Edmonton.

Our children attended Lake Centre School. In later years, after attending high school in Calmar and graduating from the Vermilion Agricultural College, George started water well drilling and Bill joined him in due course. They drilled water wells for many miles around and as this is written, George continues with farming and water well drilling. Our girls finished high school and went to university to become teachers. They both taught school in Calmar and Hilda continues at New Humble School now.





Bill & Eva Burgess 25th Wedding Anniversary 1959

1963 Lawrence Burgess & Amy at their home.

George married Alma Foged and they have three children: Donna, Peter and the latest one, William George, born Sept. 29, 1976. They continue to live on the family farm. Hilda married Mike Karbonik in 1960. They have two daughters, Sally and Debra. They reside on the farm five miles south of Calmar, the well known Spruce Tree Corner, where they operate the farm and Mike works for Texaco Exploration. Eileen married Michael Cholach of Thorsby in 1960 and they have one daughter, Jill. They live in Red Deer. Mike is a consulting geologist.

Bill was school trustee in the Clover Bar School Division No. 13 and served on telephone, rural electrification and Co-op boards. We built a new house in 1960 with all conveniences made possible with the advent of electricity in this area.

In 1963 Bill and I visited his boyhood home in England after 35 years absence. Bill passed away April 6, 1973 and is buried in the Conjuring Creek Community Cemetery.

I still reside in our home on the family farm and enjoy driving the tractor when needed and help otherwise. I like working with people and have been president of the Calmar Senior Citizens for four years and am a member of the Conjuring Creek Women's Institute.

THE ERIC CARLSON STORY

by Viola Stanyer (nee Carlson)

My grandparents both died before I was born and now all their children are gone too, so this account of the 'Carlson Family' will be one of hearsay only - I can only hope my memory is not too faulty!

Eric and Britta, with their three children, Anna, Andrew and Eric left their home in Gagnef, Sweden in



Eric Carlson (1864 - 1915) Britta (1863 - 1910) Anna, Andrew and Eric, (1899)



From Left to Right — Andrew Carlson, Caroline Carlson, L.O. Anderson, Gladys Ripper, Andrew Sund.



Threshing in the snow — early 1900's.

the early 1900's. The trip by boat and train took weeks. My father, Eric, though only eight or nine years old at that time, never forgot the seasick passengers and the seemingly endless expanse of water. By the time they had travelled by train for days across the vast prairie, they felt they were too far from 'home' to ever go back; none of the family ever visited Sweden.

Their first home in Alberta was a log house built on the NE 32-48-27-W4, directly south of the present Community Hall. They later built a two-storey frame house, but the log house stood and was used as an outbuilding for years.

It is hard to visualize what those early years must have been like. I can remember my Dad saying it took several days to make the round trip to Leduc with a team of horses and a wagon.

Anna went to Calgary and worked in a hotel, sending most of her wages home to help her folks. Eric and Andrew, with several other young men from the district, went to work in B.C. on the railroad, building the piece between Tete Jeune Cache and Blue River. When I drive the Yellowhead highway, the ghosts of those young Swedes seem to accompany me. From the way my Dad talked of that time, though the work was hard, most of them looked on it as a great adventure!

Life in the new land proved too hard for Britta. She died in 1910 of an undiagnosed illness, only 47 years old. After her death Eric sent to Sweden for Carolina Holmquist. Unfortunately Eric died within a few years of their marriage. He was also young, only 50. Andrew took over the farm and he and Carolina spent their lives there, except for one year when they lived in our house in Wetaskiwin, while we lived on the farm. I was only seven years old but I can remember that year quite well. I remember walking to school with the Ecklund and Huber kids and cutting across the pasture to play at Johnny Erickson's. And who will ever forget 'coffee time' at L.O. Anderson's? After that year in town, Andrew was glad to get back to his farm. However, his health failed and he too was only a young man when he died. After his death, the farm was sold and Carolina moved to Wetaskiwin where she spent the rest of her days. And so ended the Carlson family in the Buford district.



Anna & Jim Cornell, Bill & Fanny, 1928.

Anna met and married Jim Carnell while she was working in Calgary. They moved to Wetaskiwin where they farmed west of the town. Jim also worked in the Wholesale Beer Depot on the east side. Some of you may remember those days! Anna and Jim had one son, William and one daughter, Fanny. After Jim died in 1929, Anna married Herbert Reed. They moved to Calgary where both died. William never married. He spent his life in the Wetaskiwin district where he died in his early 50's. Fanny worked in Enman's Book Store before going to Calgary where she met and married Jack Campbell. In the early 1930's, they came to Wetaskiwin and founded Campbell's Funeral Home, now Baker's Funeral Chapel. After selling the business they returned to Calgary for a few years before retiring to Salem, Oregon, where they both passed away. They had one son, Maurice, and one daughter, Delores, both of whom are married and live in Salem.

Eric Jr. married Hazel Steinacker in 1916. Their first year was spent on the homestead at Conjuring

Lake and on the farm at Willow Creek. In 1920, Dad started a garage business in Wetaskiwin and until 1930 alternated farming with working in the garage. We lived in several different districts including Wetaskiwin, Buford, Bear's Hill, Willow Creek, Gwynne and Bruce. In 1937, Dad moved the family to a logging camp on Vancouver Island, and here we have stayed. Mother's health deteriorated rapidly after the move to B.C. and she died in 1943. Dad stayed on in the logging camp until his death in 1956. There were seven children in the family, . The two youngest died in infancy. Gordon managed and then owned a general store in the logging camp. He is now retired and he



Eric & Hazel Carlson and family (1942)

and Alma (nee Newman) are enjoying travelling, gardening and fishing. Walter was in the Army from 1940-45. He was overseas from 1942 on, and was a prisoner-of-war for the last year. After his discharge, he married Flora Thomas and returned to the logging camp where he has worked ever since. Milton was in the R.C. A.F. during the war and was stationed in Snag. Yukon, a large part of the time. After his discharge he married Loreen Mac Donald and moved to Campbell River where he lived and raised four daughters. He died in 1971 at the age of 47. Delma married Murray Smith and went to live in Port Renfrew where they raised four sons and one daughter. They now live in Victoria. I married Ernest Stanver and raised two sons and two daughters, who are all married with families. Ernie died in 1969 and I work in the office for the logging company.

FRED AND MARY CHUBOCHA FAMILY

written by Edward Chubocha, Nov. 1, 1978

Fred Chubocha, son of Nick and Annie (nee Stetson), was born on Feb. 10, 1893 in (Dunkevich) Jarslow, Austria (now Poland). He was the second oldest of a family of four children. During his youth his life was spent on his parents' estate. To help the family's income, Fred worked as a laborer at a brick factory.

During World War I, Fred was called to join the forces in the Austrian Army. It was during this period of time that his mother and grandmother both passed

away. His father also passed away when Fred was still a young man, leaving him as the only guardian of his two sisters and a brother.

On March 21, 1921, (along with his sister Annie, now Belozer) he left for Canada, arriving in Leduc on May 13, 1921. Their Uncle George and Aunt Katie Stetson met them on arrival. Fred resided on their farm near Calmar for a short time until he ventured out to find a job.

His first job in Canada was as a farm laborer for Mr. Kost Dobko of Calmar. He also contracted to grub and pile trees for Mr. Richard Yaremko of Nisku. After this he went to work for the C.P.R. on a bridge gang. He was stationed on a line that was being constructed from Rocky Mountain House to Nordegg. During these years Fred managed to save enough capital to make a down payment on a farm. In 1929 he purchased the land (SW 2-49-27-4) for the sum of \$4500.00 from Ernest and Hatie Howard in the Conjuring Creek district. After 2 years of bachelorhood on his farm, Fred met Mary Spilak, daughter of John and Annie Spilak of Calmar.

Mary Spilak was born on April 5, 1904 in (Vitlina) Jarslow, Austria (now Poland). She was the second youngest of six children.

In May of 1905 along with her parents and 4 brothers, she emigrated to Canada. They arrived on May 28, 1905 at Leduc. The family resided on the John Glubish farm. In July they moved to the farm which they purchased from Andrew Hartfelder, west of Leduc. During her youth, Mary attended the Dahlgren School. She helped on her parents' farm. In those days the road to Leduc was even impassable for horses.

Fred Chubocha and Mary Spilak were married Jan. 31, 1931 at the Orthodox Church at Nisku. The day of the wedding the weather was so mild that the guests came with wagons instead of sleighs, even though it was January.

My father, Fred had a log house built which was their first home. The farm had approximately 25 acres of land cleared for seeding. Most of the labor consisted of grubbing trees and picking roots. Mr. Tom Tomaszewski of Calmar broke most of the land with a McCormick Deering 22-36 tractor. During the winter, Father hauled in logs in order to build a barn and poultry house during the summer.

Fred and Mary Chubocha's first child Elizabeth, was born on Nov. 8, 1931 in the General Hospital in Edmonton. A year later, their second daughter Irene was born on Nov. 16, 1932 at home. Mrs. Mary Sekora (a neighbour) acted as a mid-wife.

The coal mine at Conjuring Lake was their closest source of coal. In order to get a supply of coal Dad had to leave home as early as 2 o'clock in the morning.

In the winter most of the roads were impassable. Father walked to the Glen Park Store to purchase the few groceries.

Dad and Mom hosted many travellers for the night as the trip from the western district to Leduc could not



Fred Chubocha family — Nadia (Chubocha) Harrish, Ann (Chubocha) Kuzio (deceased 1974), Edward Chubocha, Elizabeth (Chubocha) Rovinsky, Irene (Chubocha) Pawlyk — Fred and Mary Chubocha, 1968.

be made in one day. The Glen Park district was known as a stopover place for many farmers and travellers.

All the poultry, ducks and geese were hatched on the farm. One year a few more ducklings, than expected were hatched. A wild drake managed to lure a few of the tame ducks to nest in the straw pile. Most of these ducklings were hatched with black feet compared to the orange feet of the tame ducks. In the fall most of these ducks joined the wild ones and flew south.

I, Edward, the third child, was born on June 1, 1936. Mother had a difficult time choosing a name, but decided on the name Edward since King Edward was on the throne at the time. The crops were very poor the year I was born due to the heat and drought.

My sister Annie was born on Oct. 10, 1937.

In 1940, Father constructed a new home which was a great improvement compared to our log house. In August of that same year, a car was purchased (our first — a 1928 Chev.) from Mr. Riddock.

A fifth child, Nadia, was born on July 11, 1941.

In July of 1942, Mother was the happy owner of a new gasoline-powered Beatty washing machine. This was a vast change from the scrubbing board. In May, 1947, Father purchased his first tractor (a John Deere AR). It helped greatly in the farming operation. This same year (1947) the first school bus in the County of Leduc was driven by Don Weiting and it ended our buggy and sleigh days. In later years some of the school bus drivers were; Jim Blondheim, Henry Schmolke, and Peter Maryka.

On Nov. 25, 1949 Irene married Edward Pawlyk of Calmar. The following year Elizabeth married John Rovinsky of Thorsby on July 4, 1950. That year Mom and Dad became grandparents to Phillip Pawlyk.

In 1951, the British American Oil Co. drilled their first well in the district. This well came into production

on Sept. 2, and the rentals we received increased our income on the farm.

Father purchased his own McCormick Deering thresher in Sept. 1952. It was during this time that farmers were getting more independent in the farming industry. In Feb. of 1954, the farm, and standard of living, were greatly improved when most of the farmers had Calgary Power installed. It was the end of the coal oil and lantern era.

Annie married Walter Kuzio of Thorsby on June 6, 1957.

In July of 1958, Father purchased his first combine, a Massey-Harris #80.

On June 25, 1959, Nadia married Edward Harrish of Thorsby.

It was in Jan. of 1962, that my parents were able to have a phone installed. At that time there were 8 different homes on the same circuit which was known as a party-line. The phone was operated by the Conjuring Creek Mutual Telephone Co.

Father and Mother are very active members of the Ukr. Greek Orthodox Church (2 miles west of Calmar) since their marriage. Dad helped in the construction of the National Hall in 1944 and also of the new church in 1958.

On May 4, 1962, I, Edward, married Millie Bendza of Thorsby.

In Oct. 1964, Father and Mother retired and moved to Thorsby. Father continued to help us on the farm for many years after his retirement. Every year at Christmas my parents, and their entire family have a reunion. Prior to Christmas, the whole group pull names. At Christmas all the gifts are exchanged. This tradition first began when Mom and Dad retired Every year at Ukrainian Christmas and Easter, Mother prepares a delicious dinner which all her children never miss. Another special treat of hers is the gift of

ten dollars presented to each of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren on their birthdays. To date she has 20 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

On March 24, 1974, Father and Mother and their family were saddened by the death of their daughter

Annie Kuzio at the age of 36.



4 generations of the Chubocha family. Left to Right — Philip Pawlyk, Irene Pawlyk (mother), Russ Pawlyk, Mrs. Mary Chubocha with her two great grandchildren. L. — Raymond, son of Phil and Jerritt son of Russ Pawlyk.

Today Dad and Mom continue to enjoy their retirement in Thorsby. Their daughters; Elizabeth, Irene and Nadia live in the Thorsby area.

I, Edward, and my wife Millie continue to live on the original farm in the Calmar district. We have a family of 6 children; Diane (is 15 years old, in grade 11 and attends Calmar High), Marianne (is 12 in grade 8), Debra (is 8 in grade 4), Allan (is 7 in grade 2), and Leanne (is 6 in grade 1). These 4 children attend the New Humble School. Correen is 4 years old and attends Calmar Kindergarten. The children all enjoy school. As a pastime our children participate in Ukrainian dancing. Millie and I belong to the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church 2 miles west of Calmar. Millie is active in the Church Ladies Group.

I worked for the County of Leduc for 8 years and at present (Nov. 1978) am employed by Sage Homes in Edmonton.

For the past 16 years I have been part of an orchestra called "The 3 Ed's". Our group consists of Ed Harrish on guitar, Ed Pawlyk on violin, and I play the accordian. During the winter months I enjoy the sport of curling.

My family and I are looking forward to moving into our new home which is presently under construction on our farm.

GUSTAF ARTHUR DAHL

submitted by various members of the family

In May, 1890, when Grandpa was 3 weeks old, he and his parents, John and Anna Dahl arrived in Kulm, North Dakota, from Sweden. In the spring of 1899, along with his parents, 2 brothers and 3 sisters he arrived in Buford. Here, during the summer of his ninth year, he received his only schooling—3 months.

While visiting her sister Mrs. Rudolph Johnson, Tillie Lundstrom met Grandpa, becoming his wife in September of 1912 in Calgary. They had 8 children; 2 sons Albert (still on the home place) and Alvin (deceased in April 1964) and 6 daughters; Ethel, Edla, Opal, Roselyn, Vivian and Doris.



September 1916 Arthur, Tillie, Albert, Alvin Ethel and Edla Dahl.

In 1913 or 1914, Grandpa built their first house, a two-room frame house which was 20 ft. by 20 ft., with an upstairs. They, along with their first 2 children, moved into this in the spring of 1914. This was their home, where they raised 6 more children until Grandpa built an addition in 1930.

The house was heated by a wood and coal cook stove which was also used to cook all their meals, and bake bread (Swedish bread too!). They travelled by horse and buggy to Anderson's Store and Leduc to do

any shopping.

Grandpa became a blacksmith, making his own blacksmithing tongs (these are still being used by his son-in-law, Harold Melin). Early morning found him sharpening plow shares in order to have them ready for the neighbors to pick up before breakfast so they could begin their own work after chores. Grandpa helped out his neighbors by doing carpenter work, working on the grader building roads — first with horses, later with Nels Anderson's steam-engine, and he also hauled willow posts to Leduc.

In the late 20's, for \$5.50 per month, Grandma cleaned and scrubbed the Kulm two-room school

twice a month. To do this, she had to haul hot water 2 miles from home in eight-gallon cans. For lunch, either her sister, Mrs. Rudolph Johnson, or her mother-in-law brought coffee and homemade cake or cookies.

Grandma, the first woman in the district to make a parka, made Alvin a parka from white canvas or duck. The hooded parka (lined with flannel) had only a short zippered opening. Consequently, it had to be pulled over the head. A pocket across the bottom of the parka prevented him from losing too many mittens.

Eight to 10 cows were milked by hand every day. Then there was separating to do, and pigs and chickens to be fed. Due to the fact that there were no fences, Bucking Horse Lake claimed many horses and cows of both Grandpa and his neighbors who used the pasture surrounding the lake.

Grandpa's first tractor was an International Truck with the chassis shortened and welded. Since it was licensed, it was used to haul pigs to Edmonton with a

four-wheel trailer.

The having was done with "bucking poles". This was done by putting a team of horses on each end of a long pole. The pole was drawn across the hay meadow picking up the hay coils until there was enough hay rolling ahead of the pole. This was then pulled up on



Taken in late 1930's Albert, Albert Ipsen, Arthur Dahl, Victor Sorenson, Tenus Sorenson, Alfred Ipsen, Alvin and Len Coy.

For entertainment they played cards, went to Christmas concerts at the school, sang, or listened to Alvin play the guitar or violin while Grandpa, who had a good voice, sang. The violin was bought by Uncle Emil Lundstrom in 1908, and is still in the family. Many happy hours were also spent at quilting bees attended by Grandpa's family and neighbors. Grandma's favorite pastime was knitting socks and mittens. Many of her grandchildren still wear some of the ones she made for them. Any spare time was spent reading one of the 2 papers, the Free Press or the Family Herald, which were received regularly.

The children travelled 2 miles on foot to the Kulm School. Alvin received nine cents a room per day (or \$3.60 per month) for the two rooms, for "making fires" at the Kulm School. His duties included carrying in the wood and keeping the fires going during the day. Since no coal was used then, he had to start the fires about 1 hour before school began. For 7½ cents per day (or \$1.50 per month) Edla swept one room of



Arthur Dahl family, 1936.

the school during her last years spent there. When Edla quit school, Roselyn took over the job, later to be replaced by Vivian. At the time, \$1.50 would keep a teenage girl in ski pants for school.

Grandpa was active in the community for a time as chairman of the Glen Park Hall Board. He and Grandma became Jehovah's Witnesses in the early

1920's.

Marriages in the Family and Grandchildren (17): Ethel and Bertle Forsberg of Glen Park (1937)

Children: Viola (deceased), Jean, Clifford (deceased), Verne.

Edla and Tiffany Sorenson of Glen Park (1937). Opal and Lorne "Tip" Telford of Edmonton (1941).

Children: Lorna and Phyllis

Opal now resides in Edmonton. Roselyn and Ben Forsberg of Glen Park (1939).

Children: Carol, Vera, and Audrey Vivian and Harold Melin of Calmar (1948).

Children: Brian, Sandra, Charles, Inga, Joanne, and Klenard.

Doris and George Modin of Glen Park (1950).

Children: Elva, Kerry, Heather and Melody. Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren (16):

Jean and Edward Tuckwood of Cynthia (1962):

Children: Sharon, Shauna, and Colin.

Verne and Marlene (Oberst) Forsberg of Edmonton (1975).

Children: Craig.

Lorna and Joseph Cardinal of Millet (1961).

Children: Tracy, Leon, Vince and Robert. Carol and Eugene Yachimetz of Mulhurst (1963).

Children: Preston and Trevor.

Vera and Dennis Fedor of Edmonton (1967).

Children: Michelle and Curtis. Audrey and Lynn Watson of Devon (1973).

Children: Kyle and Cory.

Brian and Helen (Johnson) of Leduc (1973).

Children: Cody.

Inga and Delbert Melenius of Calmar (1976).

Klenard and Colleen (Cudmore) of Dawson Creek, B.C. (1976).

Children: Crystal, expecting second.

Grandpa passed away in February of 1949. Grandma lived on the home place until February 11, 1967, when she went to Blunt's Nursing Home in Leduc where she resided until her death on August 7,

JOHN O. DAHL By granddaughter, Ethel Forsberg



Neighborhood picnic in 1905 at the J.O. Dahl farm home. Looking out from upstairs windows, I. Helgren and C.L. Nystrom.

Back row, Left to Right — Oscar Jonson, Mrs. J.A. Anderson, J.A. Anderson, Mrs. O. Jonson, Freida Bjur, Selma Nystrom, Frank Bjur, Mrs. J.O. Dahl, Matt Olson, J.O. Dahl, L.O. Anderson, Jonson (back) Rudolph Helgren, Mrs. L.O. Anderson, unknown, Carl Lindgren with child Alice, Carl Nystrom, Ellen Lindgren, Alexa Nystrom, Mrs. A. Johnson, unknown, August Johnson, two unknown.

Sitting, left to Right — Judith Helgren, Clara Nystrom, unknown, Ida Dahl, Mrs. I. Helgren holding Esther, Grace Anderson, Ruth Dahl, holding child, Nannie Dahl, child unknown, Linda Helgren, Hilda Anderson. Boys kneeling, Melvin Anderson, unknown, Chester Johnson, Edwin Anderson, Alfred Dahl, Albin Lindgren, Fritz Helgren, Warner Johnson, unknown, Abner Jonson, Fjaller Johnson, unknown.



Herbert Lindgren, Julius Dahl and Ferdinand Dahl in 1915.



Left to Right — Leo Jonson, Elof Lundstrom, Arthur Dahl, Albert Lundstrom, Ferdinand Dahl,
Bertle Forsberg and Grandpa Dahl.



John Dahl Family. Back row, Left to Right — Alfred, Arthur, Ferdinand, Julius, Alec, Reuben.
Middle row, standing, Willie, Bert and Lennart.
Sitting; John Dahl (father), Ruth (Mrs. Axel Holm), Edith (Mrs. Fritz Helgren), Mother Dahl,
Nannie (Mrs. Ole Larson), picture inset; Harold and Velma who passed away in 1907 from
diphtheria.

John O. Dahl was born in Norsjo, Socken Vesterbotten, Sweden on Dec. 31, 1865. In 1889 he married Anna Antonia Bowman. Their first son, Arthur, was born on Feb. 23, 1890, and when he was 2 weeks old, they set sail for the U.S.A. They settled in Kulm, North Dakota, and Alfred, Nannie, Harold, Ruth, Velma and Julius were born there. They farmed and worked hard, but times were very hard, and hearing about homesteads being given away in Alberta, they decided to go there.

Julius was born March 26, 1899, and when he was 2 weeks old the family left North Dakota for Alberta. They arrived on the train in Leduc with 2 cows, 2 horses, some machinery, furniture, \$29.00 cash and 7 small children. Grandpa went out to Buford (now Glen Park) and filed on a homestead N.W. 32-48-27-W4. Grandpa's brother, August Davidson, also came and filed on NE 32-48-27-W4. They only

stayed a couple of years.

Grandpa started to build a log house, but due to the difficulty of finding survey stakes, he built on the quarter north of his, which L.O. Anderson settled on in 1904. He bought the log house from Grandpa. Grandpa then built a house on his own quarter and started to clear some land. This was done with hand labor, axes, shovels, picks, and with the team of horses. They all worked very hard. Grandpa was a good carpenter and helped build a school-house in 1901. It was named Kulm after the place they left in North Dakota. Grandpa was a school trustee and they also boarded some of the teachers. In the ensuing years 7 more children were born. These were Edith, Ferdinand, Alec, Reuben, Bert, Lennart and Willie.

Grandpa was a road foreman and they built many roads with horses, shovels, and axes. They continued to grub and break land and Grandpa also worked away from home to earn cash. Grandma sewed, spun wool, knit, and fed her family well. In 1907, Harold and

Velma passed away from diphtheria.

When the family first arrived, they got their mail at Willie Westlin's about 5 miles northwest of their place and later they got their mail at J.A. Sangster's in Conjuring Creek (about 7 miles away), until L.O. Anderson started the Buford Post Office. Grandpa did commercial fishing at Pigeon Lake for many years with the boys. He started to drive a car at the age of 73 years and drove for quite a few years. Grandma passed away in 1934. Grandpa sold his farm to Mr. and Mrs. Emil Olson in 1943 and built a small house on the yard of his daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Helgren. He later moved in with his daughter. Then he moved to his son, Alec's place, where he passed way in May of 1953. The old farm is now owned by Andrew Senio.

Arthur married Tillie Lundstrom and they had 8 children. Alfred married Nannie Nystrom and they had 12 children. Ruth married Axel Holm and they had 3 boys. Nannie married Ole Larson and they had 8 children. Edith married Fritz Helgren and they had 5 children. Reuben married Helen Ferris and they had 6 children. Bert married Judith Lundstrom and they had 3 children. Willie married Inez Melin and they had 3 children. Arthur, Alfred, Nannie, Ruth, Julius, Ferdinand and Willie have passed away.

ALGOT DAHLBECK FAMILY

Written by Algot

My earliest recollection of my existence was in 1918, being born on the 28th of February in 1915, on the southwest end of Conjuring Lake (now called Wizard Lake) on the NE 2-48-R27 W4. That land is now a park with sub-divisions all around.

Dad homesteaded in 1914 after coming from Colorado. Life was very hard for most of the settlers at that time. I gather, from hearing tales of it, that if it hadn't been for the jackfish or pike in the lake, a lot of early settlers would have been pretty hard pressed to eke out a living. Dad was caught fishing and his net was confiscated. After the R.C.M.P. made quite a number of trips out from Leduc on horseback with the summons, failing to find my dad home, he finally had to pay a fine of \$2.00 before his nets were returned. This is a far cry from today when one can lose car, nets, fish and pay a fine besides.

At that time the road to Pigeon Lake came from Buford, from L.O. Anderson's store across all the farm yards, intersected by roads converging into it from other settler's as it went south and west, finally crossing at what was known as the corduroy at the west end of Wizard Lake. It was made by settlers laying tamarack logs for nearly half a mile and covering them with dirt. It was very rough but made the road possible to use all summer.

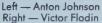
We lived at that time in an approximately 12 x 16 log shack. The building was just demolished in 1977 by John Ostopchuk, the present owner. My parents, had six children. I remember the Froms; Gust, Robert, and George stayed with us quite frequently. We were crowded but made do.

We moved to Washington and left our cattle for a neighbor. He bought them and was to pay at a later date, as cattle were very high. The winter of 1919 was a really tough one and hay went up to \$90.00 a ton and cattle prices dropped to just a few dollars per head so we lost all equity in those cattle.

I returned to Tees, Alberta in 1926, coming back to Buford in 1930 during the depression years to SE 20-48-27 W4 to the home of Victor Flodin. He had immigrated to Canada in 1910 and was my father's step brother. He lived on the same piece of land until he retired in 1947. He passed away in Leduc in the early '70's and is buried in the Leduc Cemetery.

I worked for my board and exchanged use of horses and equipment. In 1934 I bought the NE 8-48-27 W4 having to brush and break 10 acres per year with the option to buy at \$11.00 per acre at the end of three years.







Raking hay



Hauling manure

That winter I worked at Leduc Dairy for the sum of \$10.00 per month from 5:30 a.m. until 7 or 8 in the evening. The following summer at Chisholm Mills for 25¢ per hour which didn't leave very much after board was paid. The winter of 1935 and 36 I worked in bush camps at \$1.00 per hour with free board. I also worked at \$1.50 a day threshing. In late 1941 I joined the army, spending four years; training in Calgary, Brandon, Shilo, Manitoba, Vancouver, B.C. and Petawawa, Ontario. I went overseas in 1942, served in England going in on D-Day to France then Belgium, Holland and Germany. After four years of service, I returned home and continued farming.

In 1947 I married Genevieve, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Strautman who had moved up from North Dakota in 1925. They had settled on the NW 25-48-1 W4, just northeast of Thorsby. I bought the SE 17-48-27W4 in 1951 from Sam Miskinis who had purchased it from the C.P.R. In 1961 I bought the SE 20-48-27W4 from Victor Flodin. I have been interested in exotics, first the Appaloosa when this breed of horses was being brought back into existence. They were a former Indian horse with spots on them and were nearly extinct. They now appear on any part of the Canadian continent due to a few individuals who brought this about. We still have a few on our farm.

Then followed the adventure with European imported cattle, Simmentals, Maine Anjou, Chiniana and lately in Marchigiana with my son Duane, in

transplanting a heifer. We now have a herd of ten full blood heifers to calve out in the spring.

This brings me to the present time when one must retire whether he would like to or not.

Genevieve and I have four children - Duane born in 1951, Darlene born 1956. She is married to Wayne Dalrymple and they have one son Ryan Gavin born in 1978.

Denise, our second daughter, was born in 1958 and our youngest is a boy Dean, born in 1966.

MR. & MRS. JOHN OLAF DAHLBECK

By their son Algot Dahlbeck

Mr. & Mrs. John Dahlbeck were married in Sorcella, Sweden in 1908. She was formerly Miss Anna E. Lundmark of Cottelea, a small village in Sorcella. She was born in 1888. John was born in 1875 to a lady by the name of Sofia (last name unknown) who later became Mrs. Flodin. He was born in Marbberg and prior to his marriage, he spent some time in different parts of Norway. They immigrated to Colorado, U.S.A. in 1910 with 1 daughter Lilly who was just a few months old. They lived in Colorado for about 2 years and their second daughter was born there. Her name was Eva.

They then came to Buford, Alberta where their third daughter Velma, was born at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Oslund. This farm, the N.E. 31-48-27-W4 is

still the home of the third generation, Roy Oslund. They lived there until they moved to a homestead on the southwest end of Conjuring Lake in 1914, the N.E. 2-48-27-W4. It was here their first son (and fourth child) was born — Algot in 1915. From here they moved to another home 2 miles north of the west end of the lake N.E. 22-48-27-W4. In 1916 their fifth child was born, a daughter Amy and another daughter Agnes followed.



Old Steam Engine — 1939.

In 1918 John and Anna moved to Oregon, U.S.A. and then to Skomakawa, Washington. Mildred was born and later their second son Henry was born there.

In 1926 they moved back to Alberta, settling at Tees, east of Lacombe. John spent most of his time in later years trapping and working at odd jobs. He finally gave up his trap line at the age of 75 years. His legs were giving out on him and having to crawl back 3 miles on his hands and knees made him decide he was too old for trapping game. He spent the remaining years of his life at the home of his son Algot at Glen Park. He had arthritis quite bad and had his meals served in his room. He was with Algot from 1956 until his death in 1961 and was buried in the Glen Park Cemetery.

Anna Dahlbeck lived at Buford until 1943 when she moved to Burnaby, B.C. and later to Haney. She enjoyed fairly good health until her death in 1972 at the age of 83. She was buried in the Haney Cemetery.

Lilly passed away at Haney and is buried there. Eva lives at Haney. Velma and her husband live at Wells, B.C. Algot resides on his farm at Glen Park. This community was formerly known as Buford. Amy is, at present, living in Langley, B.C. Agnes and her husband live in New Westminster, B.C. Mildred and her husband are living in Burnaby. Henry and his family reside in North Surrey, B.C.

THE EARL AND FLORENCE ERICKSON STORY

by Lillian French

Earl Erickson is the son of John and Betsy Erickson, a popular couple who farmed in the Willow Creek area before moving to Buford around 1917. Florence Erickson is the daughter of one of the best known pioneer couples west of Leduc, Mr. & Mrs. L.O. Anderson, of Glen Park. They have related some of their statistics to me so I shall endeavor to submit a fitting contribution of their interesting lives.

Florence recalls how:

- kindlings were made every night to start the morning fire.
- all the meals were cooked on a wood stove.
- the wood box had to be filled with wood before dark.
- no water works, so the crocks, reservoir on stove and pails were filled with water every night.
- slop pails were emptied several times a day.
- ashes were carried out at least twice a day.
- coal pails were filled every night in the winter time.
- the names of the cows were: Jennie, Star, Froyda, Dokka, Goolroos and the horses were: King, Sam, Dolly, Kate and Nancy.
- chores were done in lantern light.
- smudges were built to keep flies and mosquitoes away.
- How Melvin and Edwin would go into the woods, cut down the trees, haul them in and then the neighbors would come to help saw them. They were then chopped and made into huge woodpiles to last all winter and summer.
- chivarees for weddings were common and greatly enjoyed.
- how we all wore wool stockings, wool shirts, wool toques, mitts and scarves in the winter time.
- mud was often axle deep on the roads, and it would take a good day by team and wagon to drive to Leduc for groceries.
- Florence never had any bought toys. Mother made rag dolls out of old stockings.
- she started school in the first Kulm School which was built on Dad's homestead.
- some of the games at school were: I Spy, Tag, Anti-I-Over.
- school lunches were carried in 3 lb. lard pails and consisted mostly of bread and butter, sometimes an apple. If ever there were "extras" she was so excited at school she could hardly study. She would then be the first one in the cloak room at noon to grab her lunch pail.
- how the kids loved to pick up fresh snow on their woolen mitts to eat on their way to school.
- we children wore braids with ribbons in our hair.
- she wore Melvin's shoes to school that had metal hooks on them.
- dresses were made from hand-me-downs, and flour sacks.

- how good the icicles tasted from the eaves of the shanty — they were our popsicles.
- in the winter they skated on frozen ponds or down the hard snow on the roads.
- the boys would try to get up a hockey team there were no uniforms in those days.
- many people from the west country hauled willow pickets to Leduc, and when they stopped at Dad's store to rest their horses, Florence would tie her home made sled to one of their sleighs in anticipation of a joyful ride down the Town Line. One time the track was exceptionally rough and she fell off her little sleigh. No doubt the driver wanted to teach her a lesson so he speeded up his team and Florence ran crying after him for what seemed a whole mile. Finally the driver stopped and unfastened her sleigh. She had learned her lesson.
- dancing was enjoyed without the aid of liquid refreshments.
- Florence received a fancy post card for being the best speller at school.
- how the threshers came for 3 to 4 days and the women worked from 4:00 a.m. to midnight.
- once or twice a year nomadic Indians would call at Dad's store looking for rubbing alcohol and vanilla.
- How they trudged in deep snow with a hand sleigh to get the Christmas tree.
- when Dad had his barn dances the people would put their coats on the bed in the house, and they would almost reach the ceiling.
- how Earl would come driving down the Town Line in his buggy with the fastest team of trotters in the West — "La-ly and Ranger."
- the snow was above the fence posts the Town Line was blocked.
- she excelled in track and field events and won many races.
- she took some singing lessons from Valberg Madelung.
- she washed clothes on a wash board and used ashes in the water instead of lye to get the towels white.
- how they would walk to Canyon Creek School for dances in the winter time even though the snow on Conjuring Lake was knee high.
- Softball, basketball and tennis were enjoyed whenever possible.
- at one basketball game in Leduc the Buford Team played very well and who was in attendance but Percy Page. He asked Florence and sister Rosella if they would consider playing with "The Grads" Dad decided they were needed at home.
- after she was married she walked two miles to the store carrying dozens of eggs which she sold for 5 cents a dozen.
 - Earl remembers when:
- the men complained about paying 5 cents for a glass of beer and \$1.25 for 40 oz. of Teacher's Highland Cream.

- it was possible to go to a saloon and get a sandwich with your 5¢ glass of beer. There were no vendors and no permits were required for buying liquor.
- in 1918 the doctors prescribed brandy to cure the Spanish 'flu.
- Dr. Woods and Dr. Treadgold from Leduc were the nearest doctors.
- in 1930 when the price of alcohol went up many farmers made "Moonshine."
- how hard they worked clearing the land, then ploughed, harrowed, and seeded it — all with horses.
- the grain would be cut with a binder, stooked, put in stacks and finally threshed, then stored in granaries.
- hand scythes were used to cut winter hay in the sloughs for cattle.
- —when a shave and a hair cut were two-bits.
- at the barn dances the children were put in the hay to sleep.
- work was hard and the hours long but the community get-togethers and dances compenstated for this. The Kulm schoolhouse was used for many of the community socials.
- he loved the pie socials and paid a high price for the fancy boxes at "Box Socials"
- how he wrestled with trees waist deep in snow when trying to get his wood for the coming year.
- water had to be carried in from a drilled well and on wash days boilers were filled with water and heated on a wood stove.
- reading material was the "Country Guide", "Free Press" and later the "Western Messenger."
- he bought an old car from Andrew Carlson and made it into a Bennett wagon.
- he made balls out of rags and string; bats and hockey sticks from willow trees and horse turds served as hockey pucks.
- how he would drive Florence, Rosella, Eileen Erickson, Bertle and Helge Forsberg to dances in his Overland Car which had the body removed so they had only the rods and frame to hang on to. Hardly missed a dance in Conjuring Creek, Millet, Calmar and Leduc.

Earl and Florence were married in Edmonton on June 23rd 1930. The reception, for some 200 guests, was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L.O. Anderson on June 30th, followed by a dance in Edwin Anderson's new barn. Dixon's Orchestra supplied the music — Eric, Agnes, Wilfred. Arvid and Arnie. They played from 8:00 p.m. until 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. and only charged \$15.00.

The newly weds started their happy life together renting the John Erickson farm at S.W.43-38-27-W4. The big farm house had originally been purchased from Andrew Sund by Earl's parents. Florence and Earl were engaged in mixed farming until 1939, during those unforgettable depression years.

Two daughters, Merna and Shirley, were born during those difficult times, but Earl's carpenter skills



Wedding of Florence Anderson and Earl Erickson, June 23, 1930.

and Florence's sewing and knitting stood the family in good stead. Many toys were made from wood and the girls were ecstatic with their Shetland ponies and home made cart and cutter. They attended Kulm School.

There never seemed to be a shortage of orchestras. In the early days Victor Forsberg, Helge Anderson and Mr. Alm supplied accordian music for the barn dances, while Kuno Forsberg, Eric Kvarnberg, John Osterberg and Edwin Anderson played violins. Later, Dixon's were "the best in the west," Scotts from Millet usually played at Ben Ouimettes Hall in Mulhurst, and Sorenson's Orchestra was a very talented local group of musicians.

Mr. Andrew Melin held church services in the Kulm School periodically and Anne Dedio of Thorsby held a Sunday School class at Earl Ericksons.

The Buford boys had a very good baseball team during the thirties. They even imported a player from Conjuring Creek — John Cameron boarded with the Ericksons while he played baseball and hockey with the team.

In the early part of 1939 the first disaster happened when the Erickson home burned to the ground. Earl's brothers-in-law, Karl McKinnon and Ross Mackenzie came to the rescue and helped to build a new home. Wages were 35¢ an hour. In the late Fall of '39 Earl contracted T.B. and spent 17 months in the T.B. Sanatorium.

Those months proved to be extremely difficult for Florence and in order to supplement the farm income she boarded the Kulm School teachers, Mabel Geary and Gerald George. Sam Pearce was hired to put the crop in, and later, help was received from Arnie Erickson and Carl (Red) Elkstrand. Merna and Shirley spent some months with their paternal grandparents.

In 1943 the farm was sold to Leslie Lindberg for \$6500.00 and Earl and Florence then bought 13 acres of land from Mrs. Penington in Wetaskiwin. Here, Florence busied herself with cows, chickens and a huge garden, while Earl tried his hand at trucking. After four years of this and a short stint as restaurant proprietors (Korner Lunch in Edmonton) they moved back to Glen Park and started Earl's Service Station. Business was very good but the hours were exceptionally long. Earl gave maximum service with a minimum of charge — tires were repaired for 10¢. Even so, some people found it difficult to pay their accounts.



Grand opening of Earl's Service Station in Oct. 1956.

After a few years the filling station was rented out to Wallace Helgren and the Ericksons bought a half a section of grass land in Falun, where cows were pastured. Several wet years combined with poor drainage, and another fire which levelled the service station, were factors in their decision to return to Glen Park where Earl rebuilt the garage. He operated it for several years before selling it to Alvin Olson. The farm was sold to Floyd Eklund.

Florence and Earl then moved to Edmonton and managed the Old Timer's Cabin. They bought a house in the Holyrood District and later moved to a house on 79th Street and 79th Avenue. Here Earl won the Edmonton Journal Award for his centennial fountain and rock garden — 100 stones were used in the rockery. Some time was spent in their home on 81st Avenue before they moved into an apartment at University Place. It seems that Earl had a penchant for remodelling houses and selling them. He worked for the Human Resources Branch of the Alberta

Government until his retirement in 1973. He had suffered from two severe heart attacks before he and Florence moved to Kelowna, B.C. where they now reside.

Merna married Jack Buckley from Edmonton and they had one son, John. They were divorced after a few years of marriage. John spent most of his youth with his maternal grandparents. He attended Kulm School and his first teacher was his Grand Aunt Ina C. Anderson. He also went to school in Edmonton and later became employed with the A.G.T. He married Karen Edwards who works at the International Airport and they reside on their acreage in Bonny Glen.

Merna remarried Bernard Weidman, a policeman, and four children were born to this marriage — Diane, Carol, Sharon and David. They live in Richmond, B.C. They have one grandchild Shilo Braithwaite.



Earl Erickson family in 1966. Left to Right — Shirley, Florence, Earl and Merna.

Shirley married Joe Sykes who is at present Vice President of R. ANGUS ALBERTA LTD. and they have three children —

Sandra — who is attending University of Edmonton. Brian — who is a high school student.

Roger — attends Stratford School in Rio Terrace, Edmonton.

Earl Erickson has always had an unusual talent for making things. Among his accomplishments are:

Walkers for babies (with rollers).

Small rocking chair, table and chairs.

Baby's commode chair with a fancy back.

Rocking Horse, complete with mane and tail.

Elephant Slides for his grandchildren.

Two-story garage with curved runway and gas pumps.

Aeroplane weather vane.

Dutch Windmills and some made with plastic bottles.

Horse swing that fastens from the rafters.

Lawn Ornaments.

Wishing Well.

Jiggers on boards.

Name plates for all his relatives.

Macrame hangers etc. etc.



Centennial fountain and rock garden made from 100 stones with water fall. Gold fish inhabited the fountain. Created in 1967 by Earl Erickson.

Florence has made many ceramic ornaments and is at present making wall hangings from carpeting. Duplicate Bridge is now their favorite pastime. Both Florence and Earl have spent some time in the hospital in the past year and they have been admonished by their doctor to curtail their activities. Yet, it seems, the latch string is always out at the Erickson home many memories linger there — the meals enjoyed by hundreds of friends, the ever ready "cup of coffee," Earl's cheerful voice saying, "Florence make dinner" and Florence putting on a spread fit for a king. Her pies, cakes and salads are, I am sure, famous all over Alberta and B.C. The warmth and genuine hospitality extended to all who have passed their way will long be remembered by their myriad of friends. May God Bless them and give them many more years of improved health.



Betsy and John Erickson in 1963 with their grandchildren.

THE JOHNNE ERICKSON FAMILY

Submitted by daughter Ilene McKinnon

Johnne and Betsey Erickson and their family of 6 — Margaret, Earl, Ilene, Alice, Helen and Gordon, moved from Calmar to Buford (Glen Park) in the year 1919, where they purchased a quarter of land from Andrew Sund. The following year Roy was born.

During the 6 years in this district they worked hard as did all pioneers. Betsey boarded Kulm School teachers, — Ina Fors, Mabel and Vera Garbe, and

Arnold Franson.

Besides his own farming, Johnne did custom threshing in the fall. He was a great lover of horses so his hobby was breaking horses for many farmers in the area. His pride and glory was his horse, Lady. He spent a few years on the council, and kept the roads well graded. His mother spent her last years in their home.

Margaret attended McTavish College, and became a bookkeeper for Weiners Ltd. in Vermilion where she met Ross Mackenzie whom she married.

Earl married Florence Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L.O. Anderson.

In 1925, Johnne and Betsey and the rest of the family moved to Wetaskiwin, Earl taking possession of the farm in Buford.

FIRST BUFORD — THEN GLEN PARK

Written by Mrs. John Eklund (Mother)

Found in Frontier Days (1891-1956)

65 years of Progress

My memory goes back over the years to the last of March, 1899, when my Father Helgren and Mother with family came from the bald prairies of Kulm, North Dakota, U.S.A. to the timbers, creeks, and swamps-west of the little railway town of Leduc.

I get a great deal of satisfaction looking back on those different days after raising a family of 8 children of our own, with all but two of them settled in Glen Park — Mrs. Stuart Olson (Esther), the one daughter



About 1916 Buford Express for Supplies. Ell Pearson & Edwin Anderson.

settled in Edmonton, and Mrs. Less Lindberg (Mae) another daughter settled in Calgary.

At Leduc, my father unloaded his freight car of settler effects which he had brought from N. Dakota, and now set out in a horse drawn rig for the West following the Indian trail that ran between Edmonton and Pigeon Lake. Our journey ended 20 long arduous miles from Leduc, seemingly like 100 miles, with four wheels of the wagon seldom on the ground at the same time, two being always on a stump or willow clumps.

When we arrived at Cache Creek where Buford was later located, we were fortunate to find a neighbour, also from N. Dakota, John O. Dahl who arrived at Cache Creek a couple of weeks earlier, and had already settled where someone earlier had built a small 14 x 14 log shanty. This shanty was roofed with birch bark and had two small windows. Evidently it was a hunter's camp for deer and other wild game which was plentiful at that time in the region. This included bears in the vicinity of Conjuring Lake. Mr. and Mrs. Dahl and their 7 children already had the log shack filled to over-flowing, but they generously offered to let us stay with them until my dad found land to build on. This made 18 persons in this small shanty, and everything but cooking and sleeping essentials were piled out in the bushes and well covered. Remarkable as it may seem, we were one big, happy family in spite of the crowding, and the children were able to spend a great deal of time playing outdoors, the weather generally being fine that spring. We older children had to do our share of washing clothes, cutting wood, hauling water, milking cows, everyone being given chores to do.

Dad soon filed on the ½ section of land adjoining Dahl's, so we became neighbours for life, and the two men hurried to get going on building another log house 15 x 18 with two windows and a sod roof, which was far from waterproof. Later in the season it started to rain and dirty water came pouring down through the sod roof in streams. Baby brother had to be put under the table to keep him dry and the hay floor we had to use for months, was wet a good part of the time. In addition to this, we harboured garter snakes that liked to crawl in where it was warmer in the wet spells.

Now it was the last of June, and my Dad got the last of our belongings from Leduc, cupboards made from boxes, some furniture and drapes. Mother had now turned the place into a "Home Sweet Home". We had 3 cows, 14 chickens, the men had broken land enough for 2 gardens, planted some oats (which were hand sown, and had been brought from N. Dakota). We planted potatoes, all kinds of garden seed, which grew very well in this rich, black Alberta soil.

Dad had only \$3.00 left after paying \$10.00 for his homestead entry fee, so we had to work and save. Later in the summer, we had bad luck, one of our cows died. Dad tanned the hide from which he made moccasins for the smaller children to keep their feet warm during the coming long, cold winter months.



Frank Bjur's threshing rig.

In the fall of 1899, other settlers began to move in from the Dakotas. Among the settlers were 3 brothers of my Dad's, Oscar, Gust, and Rudolph Jonson. Dad and Mr. Dahl built them log homes at which they earned 75 cents a day. Later came Karl Lindgren, August Johnson, J. Johnson, P. Davidson, and they all had families. Then came Mr. John Olson, a bachelor and a "Giant of a Man". His untimely death coming some years later, shocked the community. Mr. Gust Johnson planted potatoes in the sod on his barn roof and had a good crop. The following spring came with a very rainy season, which was indeed hard for the Buford, Kulm colony, but they all got along and kept improving their farms, and soon they had a Kulm school organized in this district. The Nystrom family came direct from Sweden, and Mr. Nystrom was an expert woodsman, so he helped put up larger, better buildings and erected the new school in 1901. The Buford Post office was opened by Mr. L.O. Anderson who came from Minnesota in 1904. Mr. Karl Lindgren became our mail man and he carried mail between Calmar and Buford. Mr. Frank Bjur opened and operated a saw mill at the west end of Conjuring Lake, which enabled settlers to replace their original log shacks with larger, better constructed frame homes.

Over the pioneer years it took a lot of struggling and heavy work on the part of the homesteaders, but out of it all came lovely rich farm lands, happy homes and the people were mostly healthy and strong. Mrs. August Johnson lived to be 101, and many others to their 80's and 90's. There was real "Brotherly Love" which we liked to talk about, and God was good, and Blessed us all.

BERTLE FORSBERG FAMILY

By Ethel Forsberg

Bertle was born in Sweden on Feb. 10, 1905 and came to Alberta with his parents and brother Helge in June, 1909. They moved into a shack with a sod roof that had been built by A. Anderson who had returned to Sweden. Bertles's mother Gerda died in Dec. 1910 and Bertle and Helge stayed with different families until their dad remarried in 1916. He married Clara Nystrom.

Bertle stayed at Victor Flodin's and walked three miles to Kulm School but he missed a lot of school. In 1937 he married Ethel Dahl who was born and grew up in the district. They had four children but two died in infancy. Jean and Verne grew up and married.

Bertle had his own threshing machine and did custom threshing for many years until combines became popular. He drove his brother Helge's gas truck and hauled gas from Black Diamond, Turner Valley and Calgary to Edmonton. They also hauled crude oil from the wells to Leduc when oil was discovered around Leduc. He worked at a lot of different jobs and places while Ethel took care of the stock and their children. They both belong to the Glen Park Community Association of which Ethel is treasurer.

A lot of fun was enjoyed in the early days at house parties, dances and especially the school concerts. Sten Lindberg was our one-man orchestra with his mouth organ and we had lots of parties and dances in 12 x 14 ft. granaries.

Bertle and Ethel celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in April 1977 at the Chateau Lacombe in Edmonton with their children and grandchildren.



Silver Wedding, April 27, 1962 Jean, Ethel & Bertle Forsberg, & Verne.



Bertle Forsberg's House

They have a large lawn, garden and lots of flowers which they both enjoy. The farm has been rented to Rodger Zingle and Bertle still works for Rodger driving the tractor in spring and fall. He has now lived on this same farm for 69 years and during that time there have been lots of changes.

They both enjoy good health and really delight in their children and their grandchildren when they visit, which is often.



Ed Tuckwood family.

Back row — Jean & Ed.

Front row — Shauna, Sharon, Colin.

Jean married Ed Tuckwood and they live in Cynthia, Alberta where Ed is employed with Texaco. They have three children, Sharon, Shauna and Colin. The children go to Drayton Valley School by school bus.

Verne married Marlene Oberst and they have a four month old son Craig. Verne has just finished his fourth year at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Electrical Engineering and works for Edmonton Telephones. They live in Edmonton.

MR. AND MRS. HELGE FORSBERG

by Helge Forsberg

I was born in Sweden on March 4, 1907. My father Victor Forsberg and mother Gerda, with my brother Bertle and me, left Sweden in 1910 for Canada.

We arrived in Halifax by boat, from there on by rail to Leduc, Alberta. Then by horse drawn vehicle to Buford, Alberta, now known as Glen Park. We stayed with L.O. Anderson's family for a short time until we were settled in a home of our own. This log house was formerly owned by August and Charlotte Anderson, not related to L.O. Anderson. They were parents of Mrs. Selma (Ludwig) Nystrom and Mrs. Clara (Oscar) Johnson, all of Buford.

My mother passed away shortly after getting settled and from then until the age of three and a half, I was farmed out to Carl Lindgren and family where I started school at Kulm School. Next I was moved to

Carl Nystrom's family where this was home until my father again made a home for us at the same location where the first log house was situated. My father had now remarried and this home was really home.

I finished school after writing Grade 9 departmental exams. However, this did not stop me from dreaming of a good future. I went out working at the age of 17. First Nordegg, then Snow Shoe, B.C., where I learned to live with men, that is, men who work hard and can spend hard earned money. After this experience I decided to return home thinking that there must be a better way of making a living.

While in Snow Shoe, B.C. I had several jobs, first helping to build a railway, approximately two miles long. This was constructed of long, straight cedar rails with ties of the same material, as are all ordinary railways. This railway was used for transporting logs to the landing of the Fraser River. At this landing I scaled the logs indicating how many board feet in each one. Then these logs were rolled into the river to float to the sawmill. Next I helped the foreman to prepare his time sheets plus other book work. Subsequently, I became a truck driver. A dream which became a lifetime job. I started with Melvin Anderson in 1926, when he purchased the Weed Creek Store formerly owned by William Zingel. While there I drove a truck and worked as a store clerk for four or five years. When Melvin moved to Calmar, I was undecided as to what I should do. Now, with some experience, I started my own trucking business which consisted of hauling livestock, lumber, coal and gas, freight, etc., from Glen Park to Edmonton.



Helge & Bertle Forsberg



Rosella & Helge Forsberg



Carl Stultz Teacher from Glen Park

In sports I enjoyed baseball over all other activities; hockey was next. I played several positions with the Buford baseball team for six or seven years, and we were known in the district as a team to be reckoned with. Our Club entered into what was known as "The Pioneer League" consisting of Glen Park, Thorsby, Calmar, Leduc, Warburg, and Ireton. We had just enough players to field a team of nine, no bench sitters.

In 1934 I married Rosella Anderson and we made our home in Glen Park until 1948 when we moved to Edmonton. Two sons Neale and Rodney were born during this time. While in Glen Park I also hauled crude oil from Leduc Oil Field to Leduc, then to Nisku, and then to the Imperial Oil Refinery in Edmonton. I next started hauling gasoline for the Arctic Oil Company from Sunburst, Montana, via Calgary to Edmonton. This was night and day, day and night for five years. This Company (Arctic Oil) was owned by McMahon Bros., now owners of McMahon Stadium in Calgary. Then the Arctic Oil Co. was sold to Purity 99 while I was their agent at Glen Park. The Company was very generous and donated crests for our baseball uniforms.

After locating in Edmonton, the first thought was education for our two sons. They attended Victoria High School, but decided to get employment before they completed their Grade 12.

I still hauled crude oil, not aware that Alberta was so rich in oil and other by-products. My next move was to increase my earnings, so therefore I acquired more trucks. One did gravel hauling, plus hourly work for the city of Edmonton. One truck was used for hauling pulpwood to "Building Products", an Edmonton firm making paper. This wood was purchased from local Indian reserves and from farmers who were buying from Indian reserves. It was compulsory to get permits from the Federal Government.

While operating this pulpwood business, I entered into an agreement with Jenner Motors, Ltd. (Edmonton) to drive and haul G.M.C. trucks from Oshawa, Ontario, the General Motors Canadian Plant, to Edmonton, Alberta. This meant I had to fly one-way to Toronto, then bus or taxi to Ottawa. The trucks were bunked, hooked in tandem series (piggy-back), four trucks to a load which measured 60 to 65 feet in length. I then drove them by highway to Edmonton to



Helge Forsberg house on lot at Glen Park

be unloaded. Each trip took approximately five days with good weather. After a few years this operation became "Western G.M.C. Truck Centre Ltd." I worked on this job until I retired at the age of 67. My last trip was made on October 23, 1974. I received an award from General Motors of Canada. This award had the distinction of being the first ever given to a Canadian truck driver. I had driven a million miles accident free.

My grateful thanks to the powers that be for a fulfilled life as a truck operator, my lifelong ambition, and for a very understanding wife who assisted and supported me in my endeavors.

JOHAN AUGUST FORSBERG FAMILY

By Hilbert Forsberg

Johan August Forsberg was born at Braskafors, Sorsele, Sweden in 1870. In 1894 he was married to Fanny Ronnholm who passed away Feb. 6, 1895 at the birth of their son Kuno.

On Sept. 29, 1904 he was wed to Amanda Ohrnell. To this union three children were born in Sweden, Dagmar, Hilbert and Berger.

He got the urge to join his brother Victor in Canada, so on July 14,1910 he left Sorsele with his family. Travelling with them was Syster Ronnholm aged 16 who went to Buford to help her aunt Gerda Forsberg, who was ill at the time. Others who were in the same company were Rickard Forsberg a cousin, Victor Flodin, Eric Ogren, and Helmer Johanson. They all arrived at Buford on July 10, 1910.

After looking around for homestead land, and not finding anything suitable, he purchased the estate of the late John Olson. It was the NE 36-48-28 W4 and here three more children were born. Mary, Albin and Myrtle who died in infancy.

On that farm was a dug well only 16 ft. deep, but it produced an abundance of soft water. It became a favorite watering place on the Township Line, which was the main traffic artery from Leduc and west to Sunnybrook, Breton and other points. The Forsbergs were always willing to share what they had and their place was a stopover for many a weary traveller and his team of horses, hauling lumber to Leduc and bringing



Hilbert Forsberg by the old well The Forsberg watering hole

back supplies. Part of the old Pigeon Lake Trail ran through their farm.

In the spring of 1917 or 18 the Anderson brothers of Calmar set up a sawmill on the Forsberg place and sawed lumber for the local settlers' various needs.

August Forsberg passed away at home on March 22, 1919. Amanda and their family carried on in the face of adversity. Her step-son Kuno was multi-talented. He made two violins, one in 1917 and one in 1919. They were complete including the bow, using only primitive tools and no plans. One was a very good instrument. He also made shoes, handsewn with animal sinew. He played the organ at the age of 5 and became a talented musician, much in demand for local entertainments and weddings. After a lingering illness he passed away at home in August, 1923 at the age of 28 years.

Mrs. Forsberg was a kind and helpful person and was often called on to help nurse the sick. She often neglected her own work to help others. When a death occurred in the community she was occasionally summoned to dress and prepare the body for burial. She knew hardships and grief after losing three members of her family in the span of four years. There were hospital and doctor bills to meet for two appendectomies and then her youngest son Albin developed cataracts on his eyes.

He had two operations which proved unsuccessful, leaving him totally blind by 1930. She turned over the farm to Hilbert and Berger in 1941 and moved to Edmonton. In 1952 she moved to Camrose where she resided until her death in May, 1965.

Necessity made it imperative that the girls seek work outside the home at an early age. Dagmar left school at the age of 14 and went to work at various jobs till she became employed at the King Edward Hotel in Edmonton. She worked there for 16 years. In 1940 she was married to Charles P. Champion. They owned

and operated hotels at Erskine, Camrose, Bashaw, Provost, Inuvik and Wainright. They had a family of three, Billy, Betty and Barbara. Charles passed away in Aug. 1968 and Dagmar makes her home with Billy in Wainright.

Mary became Mrs. Erling Anderson in 1936, they have a son Brian. They resided at Mountain Park in Alberta, in Vancouver and Camrose. Mary was employed by the Dept. of Health at Rosehaven Institution in Camrose for 20 years, first as ward aid and later as Institutional Service Supervisor. She retired in 1976 and now makes her home at Fort Saskatchewan.

Berger was married to Grace Phillips in 1938. In 1940-41 he worked on the construction of the Alaska Highway. In 1945 he sold his share of the farm to Joe Bendoritis and became a grain buyer until he became allergic to the dust. He then went into the cafe business which proved to be successful. He operated cafes at Bashaw, Provost, Spirit River, Three Hills, Mayerthorpe, Forestburg, Revelstoke, 100 Mile House and Penticton in B.C. They have two girls, Lorraine and Fay. He is retired now and they are living at Vernon, B.C.

When total blindness comes to a young man of 18 years, as it did to Albin, life seemed bleak indeed. With the aid of the whole family he was able to attend a training school for the blind in Brantford, Ont. for one year. Then he returned home and under the direction of the National Institute For The Blind he operated a concession stand at the Revillon Building in Edmonton for 16 years. He then moved to Camrose and carried on business from the Alice Hotel. In 1965 he moved into a nursing home in Edmonton as M.S. had taken its toll. A small concession stand was installed for him there, and though he is wheel chair bound, he tends his business a couple of hours each day.



Ellen & Hilbert Forsberg with their family — Dennis, Corrine, Dale and Wayne, 1974.

Hilbert married Ellen Nystrom in July, 1938 and resided on the farm until 1945 when he sold out to J. Bendoritis. He then tried his hand at buying grain, operating a service station with bulk sales and trucking gas. In 1952 he purchased a farm in the New Norway district where they still reside. They have four



Silver Wedding Open House July 14, 1963

children Wayne, Corrine, Dennis and Dale. Wayne is the only one living in the Glen Park area.

Forsberg Family Tree
Parents of Johan August Forsberg 1870 - 1919
were —

Per August Forsberg 1840 — Eva Karolina Linder 1839 —

Parents of his wife Maia Amanda Ohrnell 1878 — 1965

were —

Gustaf Perrson Ohrnell 1850 — Maria Johanna Burman 1849 —

Their children were — Kuno Valdemar born Feb. 6, 1895 Dagmar Linnea born Sept. 28, 1905 Ragnar Hilbert born May 4, 1907 Gustaf Berger born Mar. 29, 1909 Mary Caroline born Jan. 26, 1911 Hilding Albin born July 10, 1912

ROSELLA (ANDERSON) FORSBERG STORY

by Rosella Forsberg

I was born in Buford, Alberta in 1909, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L.O. Anderson. I attended Kulm School and will never forget the kindness and patience of my first teacher Mel Meldrum. As a youngster I spent many happy hours with my friends, Esther Eklund, Edna Lindgren, and Mabel Nystrom, playing "Ring Around a Rosie", "Last Couple Out", "Prisoner's Base", "Skip-to-my-Lou", baseball, hit clay, basketball, and "Kick-the-Stick".

In the winter time there was so much snow and bitterly cold that we spent most of the time dancing inside the schoolhouse. In later years I remember how we older girls were delegated to make cocoa at noon to go with the lunches.

In the fall, on weekends, I recall vividly how many of us would play "hide-and-go-seek" among the many stooks in Dahl's field. This field was only a stone's throw from our home place. How patient and considerate Mr. Dahl was with all of us.

As soon as snow came we would ski down the banks of the creek and build snow houses between the house and the store. Some days we were lucky enough to go tobogganing at Conjuring Lake.

Although we were a large family there were many chores for all of us. From the time I was eight years old, I gathered eggs, fed the chickens, milked cows, washed dishes, fed the pigs and calves. In later years I helped in the fields at haying and harvest time, and also spent many hours assisting Dad in the store and post office.

For recreation we practised basketball twice a week, and I am happy to relate our Buford team was successful in winning most tournaments at the neighboring Sports Days.

Dancing was one of my favorite pastimes and, oh! how my sister Florence and I would look forward to the Saturday night dances in Ole Modin's hall at Willow Creek. Other popular dances were held in Conjuring Creek, Thorsby, Calmar, Sunnybrook, and Michigan Centre. Ever remembered will be the wonderful times we had together with our many friends.

I shall never forget the time Helge and I drove Mother and Dad to Minneapolis to visit our many relatives, in the year 1930. While there we were treated to a professional double-header baseball game of the Major League. How we enjoyed it! I had quite a time restraining Helge from joining the ballplayers.

Helge Forsberg and I were married on January 6, 1934, and we had the first wedding dance in the new community hall. Helge managed this hall from 1933 to 1934. We built a house on the acreage that we bought from Dad. We stayed there until 1948 during which time Helge had a trucking service and also was the wholesale agent for Arctic gas and oil. As Helge spent many hours away from home, my time was occupied in selling the gas and oil to our customers, keeping house, and assisting my Mother on washdays and whenever she required help. I also boarded Lewis Broten, salesman for Lee Products.

Two sons Neale and Rodney were born during these years. They became very attached to their grandparents and they loved to mingle with the customers in Dad's store. Consequently, their vocabulary contained many "choice" words far advanced for their years.

We moved to Edmonton in 1948 and as Helge was very busy with his trucking, I worked at many odd jobs, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Kirk Kelly's Laundromat, Milky Way, Bruce Inn, and Kingsway.

In 1957 Helge bought a truck with a long wheel base which we called our Pulpwood truck and for seven years, on my days off from work, we bought and hauled pulpwood from the Indian reserves to Building Products in Edmonton. Many times we made two trips a day, and I can assure you, when you load and unload $4\frac{1}{2}$ cords of wood by hand, twice a day it becomes a backbreaking job.



Helge Forsberg hauling cordwood for pulpwood.

While reminiscing I must mention that in 1965 we flew to Knoxville, Tennessee and returned home by truck. En route we spent some time in Nashville, the home of the "Grand Ole Opry", which has some significance for us because son Neale spent one whole season touring with Wilf Carter.

One of the highlights of our married life transpired on June 1, 1970 when Helge and I received an all expense paid trip to Niagara Falls from General Motors. Helge had driven one million miles, accident free, so his company really gave us the "red carpet" treatment. Worthy of note is the fact that it was the first time a truck operator had received this recognition from General Motors.

It was a beautiful morning when we left the Edmonton International Airport and flew to Toronto. A representative from H. Kerr Industries, Oshawa met us at the airport and I was presented with a corsage. Kerr Industries, I might add, is a company that pre-services and bunks trucks ready for transportation. They are connected with General Motors of Canada. When we arrived in Oshawa, I was presented with another corsage and the formal ceremony commenced. Photographers from General Motors and the Oshawa Chronicle plus reporters from several other papers and magazines began to interview us. What publicity!

The red carpet was rolled out, the huge bunked truck was in the background and cameras flashed! Never have we felt so important! The General Manager of G.M.C. and his wife then wined and dined us in a posh hotel east of Oshawa before driving us to the Genosha Hotel, our headquarters.

The following morning, much to our surprise we were loaned a new Buick car complete with credit cards for touring Niagara Falls or wherever we wanted to go. Needless to say, we had a unforgettable holiday. When we returned the car to Kerr Industries in Oshawa, another surprise awaited us. Helge was



presented with numerous gifts; a model scale ½-ton truck inscribed with 1,000,000 miles on the left door, a 12 Karat gold-filled pen and pencil set from General Motors, a combination barometer-hygrometer and thermometer from Kerr Industries plus an album of pictures, and a lovely inscribed gold ring.

Again we were taken to dinner, and the following day we drove back to Edmonton with a load of trucks. We shall be ever grateful to G.M.C. and Kerr Industries for their many kindnesses, generosity, and most beautiful gifts.

I think I would be remiss if I did not also mention the courtesies extended by Air Canada. I travelled with Helge when we made his last trip to Toronto, and we received complimentary tickets, reserved seats, and free beverages from Air Canada. The Airline extended their congratulations and wished Helge the very best on his retirement.

On September 11, 1976 I suffered a heart attack which has greatly curtailed my activities, and so my favorite pastime, at the present, is playing "Bingo".

Neale married Karin Rehn from Wildwood and they have three children Rhonda, Randy and Roxanne.

Rodney married Diane Sinclair and they had two sons Bradley and Tim.

Rodney has since remarried.

They all live in Edmonton except Bradley who is serving in the Canadian Navy.

VICTOR FORSBERG

By Ethel Forsberg

Victor Forsberg was born in Sorseli Vesterbotten, Sweden on Oct. 1, 1880. In 1904, he married Gerda Sofia Ronholm, who was born on June 6, 1882. They had 2 sons. Bertle was born Feb. 10, 1905, and Helge was born March 4, 1907. In 1909, they decided to go to Canada and landed in Halifax on June 14. They had bought a quarter of land from August Anderson, who had been to Canada in the early 1900's and filed on a homestead and then returned to Sweden. He had built a log house with a sod roof and this was the home the family settled into. This was the SW 20-48-27-W4. Bertle and Ethel are still living on this quarter.

When Mr. and Mrs. Victor Forsberg arrived in Alberta, they stayed at Carl Lindgren's while getting their own home ready to live in. There were bears always trying to get the dried fish hanging on the wall outside.



Victor Forsberg's Home, 1909. Gerda Forsberg, Olga Thompson, Mrs. Oscar Sorenson, Bertle and Helge.

The family was here only a little over a year when Gerda got sick and passed away in Dec. 1910. Helge went and stayed at Lindgren's and Bertle stayed at Lindgrens, Nystroms, Salstroms and Flodins. Their dad was out working. On April 6, 1916, Victor married Clara Nystrom. She stayed at Nystroms while Victor went to Bull River, B.C. to work cutting ties for the railroad. When he came home, he built a new house and the family moved to the farm. They had 5 children, Tim, Ben, Evert, Helga and Emmy. Tim was killed in action in Italy in Oct. 1944.

Victor and the boys cleared the land with the axe, pick, shovel and a team of horses. There was a lot of water on the land so they couldn't clear too much in the early years until the water started to recede. Victor was a great hunter, trapper, and fisherman so there was always plenty of wild meat and fish to eat and also lots of berries. Victor filed on a homestead on the south side of Wizard Lake. They rented 300 sheep from Ole (Knute) Anderson and kept them on this homestead for awhile. He didn't keep this land too long. Everyone worked hard and Clara used to take the kids



Victor Forsberg with furs he trapped at Slave Lake.

out to the hayfield so she could help put up hay. Victor loved to play the accordian and was always popular at house parties. When the boys started to grow up, Helge went to drive a truck for Melvin Anderson, who had a store at Weed Creek. The boys at home worked at threshing time pitching bundles when the were about 14 years old, and in the winter time they fished at Pigeon Lake. Bertle bought a threshing machine and did custom threshing and Tim, Ben, and Evert worked for him for many years.

Bertle married Ethel Dahl and they had 2 children, Jean and Verne. Jean married Ed Tuckwood. They have 3 children, Sharon, Shauna and Colin. Helge married Rosella Anderson and they had 2 boys, Neale and Rodney. Neale married Karen Rainer and they had 3 children; Randy, Rhonda and Roxanne. Rodney married Diane Sinclair and they had 2 boys, Timothy and Bradley.



Victor and Clara Forsberg family. He is holding Tim and she is holding Ben. Bertle and Helge standing at back.



House on the farm

Ben married Roselyn Dahl and they had 3 girls; Carol, Vera and Audrey. Carol married Eugene Yachimec and they have 2 boys, Kyle and Cory.

Evert married Georgia Britton and they have 3 boys; Terrance, Kelvin and Barney. Terry married Rae Gullion and they have 3 children; Deanna, Alana and Dion. Barney married Camellia Buswell and they have 2 girls, Caley and Darcy. Kelly married Terrie Holland and they have 2 girls, Aaron and Carlie. Helga married Alf Hoyem and they have 3 children; Marilyn, Eldon and Susan. Marilyn married Bill Monoghan and they have 3 children; Terrence, Timothy and Penni. Eldon married Shirley Pyrch and they have 2 children, Tod and Jody. Susan married Adrian O'Sullivan and they have one daughter, Claire.

Emmy married Ike Leighton and they had 6 children; Jimmie, Clarice, Darlene, Jack, Danny and Shirley. Clarice married Ron Baxter and they have 2 girls, Rhonda and Darlene.

Darlene married Kerry Morgan and they have 2 boys, Robin and Brett. Shirley married Don Wozniuk and they have 2 children, Jason and Kelly.

Clara Forsberg lives in a Senior Citizens High Rise in Kelowna, B.C., and at the age of 80 is still in good health.

WAYNE AND SHIRLEY FORSBERG

By Shirley Forsberg

Wayne Forsberg, eldest son of Hilbert and Ellen Forsberg, finished his schooling at the Edberg school and then went on to attend the Vermilion School of Agriculture. He graduated from there in 1958.

He then worked at the Lacombe Experimental Farm and met Shirley Dann of Leslieville, Alberta. They were married on Dec. 16, 1961 in Red Deer and both continued to work at the farm until 1965 when they came to the Nystrom farm. It was their home

until 1967 when they purchased the Ben Forsberg farm.

They have four children, Kimberlie Ann born June 25, 1965. Marlene Ellen born Sept. 5, 1966, Robert Bruce born April 2, 1969 and Rodney Albin born Feb. 3, 1971.

The children have all attended school in Calmar. Kim and Marly belong to the Telford 4-H club.

KEITH AND LILLIAN FRENCH

by Lillian French

I was born in Glen Park, Alberta, on February 4, 1914, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L.O. Anderson.

My recollections as a pre-schooler are rather vague, but some of my most vivid ones during my elementary school years are:

- how brother Roy and I would run outside after a rain and wade barefoot through the mud puddles so the warm squishy mud could ooze up between our toes.
- there was a bounty on gopher tails so we would drown out the gophers, kill them, and sell the tails.
- many times the creek would overflow it's banks in the spring, and then, how we loved to go rafting!
- in the winter time I am afraid we plagued many customers driving to Dad's store by hanging on to the back of their sleighs and dragging our feet, or we would tie our little home made sled to the back of their sleighs and ride for a mile down the road.
- one customer in particular, Arnie Stubbs, had a wonderful sense of humor that could dissipate many a frown. How he loved to tease the kids!

My first teacher was the late Jack Hughes, and I give thanks to him and the following teachers who helped to influence my life during my public school years: Miss Backhouse, Imogene Ferris, George Stults, Carl Stults, Mr. O'Grady and Mrs. Embree.

Memory is like a river, for once it starts, it flows on and on, and I could do the same with my reminiscences of the Kulm School and Glen Park. However, I will stem the tide by noting a few highlights. I must first of all mention some of my classmates with whom there will always be a bond, even though some may have departed: my dear friend Alice Erickson, Ethel Dahl, Ethel Rye, Tillie Rehm, Stella Poholka, Minnie Jonson, Florence Johnson, Alvin Dahl, Breffany and Tiffany Sorenson, Willie Dahl, Lily Lindberg, Eddy Nystrom, and Alex Shymanski. Many happy hours were spent together playing: Hit Clay, Scrub, Musical Chairs, Run-sheep-run, Farmer's in the dell, and many more.

We lived two miles from the school so we were most grateful to the John Dahls for letting us walk through their farm and yard on school days, thus shortening the walking distance considerably. Many times Bert and Leonard would assist me over water puddles as they wore high rubber boots. In the winter time there was too much snow to take the short cut, so Roy and I would leave home at 8:00 a.m. in order to get to school on time. How I dreaded to have my hair braided every morning! I recall one morning when Mother seemed to take more time than usual and I fainted. She held me by the braids or I would have fallen flat on my face.



Their residence from 1922. It was the largest home west of Leduc in that period. It stood until 1975.

How I would enjoy coming home on bake days to smell and taste Mother's fresh bread and buns from the oven, which I would invariably smother with molasses or syrup. Oh, what joy!

In September, 1928, I went to Edmonton to attend Eastwood High School. I graduated from there in June, 1932. All my sisters and brothers except Rosella and Roy were now married. Dad felt that he needed extra help to run his store and post office, so he asked me not to go to Normal school but to help manage his business. You see Roy was very sports minded and he was an avid baseball player, so he therefore, spent many days away from home. He and Hilbert (Slim) Forsberg were the pitchers for the Buford Baseball Team and during those years this team was considered one of the best in the area.

For many years Dad's store was open seven days a week from early in the morning until late at night. Even with the long hours, it was not uncommon for people to knock on our door in the middle of the night. One of us would then get out of bed to sell some gas or other necessities to people passing by from Winfield, Antross, Breton, Warburg, and Sunnybrook. To my knowledge, Dad never refused assistance to a customer or stranger.

For many years we had the only phone in the district, so numerous times I jumped into the old model T Ford to deliver urgent phone messages to people in our neighborhood.

Our social life consisted of meetings, ball games, Sports Days, Box Socials, basketball, softball and dancing. In 1932 I joined the Buford Vasa Lodge \$577. It was at a local Ball Tournament that I met Keith French, the druggist from Calmar. He was the

umpire for many of our softball games, and the referee for most of our basketball games.

In May, 1930 Keith went to Thorsby to manage the Drug Store during the summer months. Besides being active in sports he assisted Dr. Hankin in many ways. Two experiences are especially worthy of note. The Doctor had received a call regarding a very ill patient west of Breton, so they drove by car as far as possible, and the remainder of the journey had to be made by wagon and a team of horses. The patient was indeed, in a critical condition requiring urgent surgery. Consequently, they bedded her down in the wagon and drove back to the car. The trip to Edmonton was a harrowing, gruelling experience for the roads were muddy and slippery with absolutely no gravel. The Doctor and Keith took turns pushing the car up all the steep hills and finally at 5:00 o'clock in the morning, they arrived at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, covered with mud from top to toe. As Keith drove the car as fast as it would go, they attracted the attention of a policeman, who was about to give them a speeding ticket. However, on hearing their tale of woe and seeing the ill patient, the policeman was most sympathetic and even told them where they might find some food. Gas was never a problem as the Doctor always carried a 5 gallon can of extra fuel. You will be relieved to know that the patient recovered.

On another occasion, Keith and the Doctor were returning to Thorsby from a call and they stopped to pick up a hitch hiker. He said, "I'm on my way to Thorsby to see that S.O.B. Doctor to get a tooth pulled." The Doctor replied, "What else do you know about him?" "Oh, I hear he's a rough old man." "Well, I am that man so to save you a lot of time I might as well pull your tooth right here." He sat the hitch hiker on the running board, pulled his tooth and then they continued on their way. No doubt, the hitch hiker is still wondering what happened. Dr. Hankin made a significant contribution to this community. May we cherish his memory and emulate his virtues!



Mock wedding party for the bridal shower for Lillian Anderson. Cart was made by Earl Erickson.

Keith and I were married in the commodius home of my parents on June 9th, 1938. There were three settings for the 150 guests. A dance followed in the Glen Park Community Hall. Our honeymoon was spent in California. Ever remembered will be the community shower held for me, prior to my marriage, through the kindness of our neighbor, Edith Helgren. I was transported to the shower in a small cart drawn by two shetland ponies, Punch and Judy, which

belonged to my brother-in-law Earl Erickson. He had also made the two wheeled cart which proved to be quite the conversation piece. An hilarious mock wedding was put on by Mavis Anderson as Minister, Merna Erickson and Torie Westermark as the bridal couple with their attendants. My grateful thanks Edith and to all who came for this very memorable day!

For eight years Keith and I lived in Calmar and we were very active in community affairs. He and Mr. Perley were instrumental in getting the new Calmar School, and also the Calgary Power for the town. As there was no resident Doctor or veterinarian, Keith was called out many times to administer first aid to both humans and animals. People would come in the middle of the night screaming for help and many urgent trips were made to a hospital in Edmonton.

Personally, I shall never forget the wonderful house parties at the home of the Perleys — hospitality personified! and Oh, how she could cook! I became a member of the Leduc Lodge #41, Order of the Royal Purple, in 1938, and the other organizations I belonged to were: the Conjuring Creek Women's Institute, the Calmar Ladies' Club, the Horticultural Society, and the Calmar Ladies' Curling Club.

In June 1946, Keith bought the Rexall Drug Store from Charlie Wylie in Hanna, and in order to pay for this new venture we worked many long hours seven days a week.

In 1950, Keith became the Grand Exalted Ruler of the B.P.O. Elks of Canada. His session was held in Toronto. Since we arrived in Hanna, he has been an active participant in a wide variety of community affairs including the town council, Chamber of Commerce, the Hanna Curling Club and the United Church. From 1959 to 1975, he served as a member of the Legislative Assembly in the Hanna-Oyen constituency. He was never defeated.

I served many years as president of the Hanna Social Credit Women's Auxiliary. We both curled quite extensively, and I cherish the many trophies that I have which were won in Edmonton, Calgary, Wetaskiwin, Delia, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Gleichen, Banff and one for each year that I participated in the Hanna Bonspiels.

I was also very active in the Hanna United Church Women and acted as their President for two years. In 1966-67 I served as the president of the Drumheller Presbyterial United Church Women after which I was presented with a life membership.

In 1973-74 I was the Worthy Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star for the province of Alberta. My theme was: "TIME, for after all, life is made up of yesterdays, todays and tomorrows. Yesterday is but a dream, tomorrow is only a vision, today well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope." I visited every chapter in the province which at that time totalled 102, and there were 60 schools of instruction. I also attended 8 Anniversary celebrations and five out-of-the-province functions. My busy year terminated in June, 1974, and

after having only one month's rest I became the Supreme Honored Royal Lady of the Order of the Royal Purple of Canada in July 1974.

Subsequently, 130 official visits were made to Lodges in Alberta, Saskatchewan and B.C. Seven special Anniversaries, five District Meetings and several other joint functions were also attended. One memorable event was taking part in the Grey Cup Parade in Vancouver. In all I was away from home 206 days. My motto for this year was "Faith and Service." Service is the rent we all pay for the space we occupy on this earth, and "if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed nothing shall be impossible unto you"—Matthew 17-20.

For two years my husband was what some people call a "grass widower." If it had not been for his love and understanding, I would not have been able to fulfil my many responsibilities as head of the two Orders. Gratefully and reverently I also thank our Heavenly Father for giving me the strength, health and watchful care to complete my two busy years without any adversity.

April 25th, 1975 will forever be a day to remember for my husband and me — "The Keith French Night." We were honored by the Hanna Chamber of Commerce and other organizations for a most active and contributory life style in the interests of our community, our friends, our fraternal and church affiliations. Many presentations were made which were greatly appreciated.



Lillian French, 1975. Supreme Honored Royal Lady of Canada O.O.R.P.

In 1976 I was honored by the Alberta Alpha Iota, the local Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority when they installed me as their "Woman of the Year."

On June 9th, 1978, Keith and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary — another memorable occasion. We were guests of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association at a luncheon in Lethbridge and Keith was presented with the A.H. Robins Bowl of Hygeia Award for his outstanding community service. The award included an all expense trip to Richmond, Virginia. It couldn't have happened to a nicer man.

Two years ago we bought a mobile home in Mesa, Arizona, where we now spend the winter months from November to the end of March. The balance of the



Keith French being honored by the Alberta Pharmaceutical Assoc. for outstanding community service at the 67th annual convention in Lethbridge. Co. representative Edgar Ingelson at left. Mr. & Mrs. French also received an all expense paid trip to Virginia.

year we spend at our home in Hanna. We have tried to live the kind of a life that when we die even the undertaker will be sorry.

"GIVE TO THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE AND THE BEST WILL COME BACK TO YOU."

GLEN PARK COMMUNITY HALL

By Lillian (Anderson) French

Every community must have a sustaining entity to ensure its essence of continuity. Thus was built the Glen Park Community Hall, pumping the life blood of entertainment, athletics, originality, enthusiasm and unity through the arteries and veins of the community.



Glen Park Community Hall

This beautiful log building erected in 1933 on the town line ($2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south and 6 miles east of Thorsby) has been an enviable landmark for many years.

The designer and builder was Mr. Stuart Olson of Edmonton and he was assisted by the following tradesmen from his construction company:- Mr. Edwin Bergquist, Mr. Einar Erickson, Mr. Eric Olson, Mr. Ragnar Ronkvist and Eric Pierre. These tradesmen and Mr. Bror Holmgren, also of Edmonton were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L.O. Anderson during the building of the Hall.

The pine logs were bought from the C.P.R. and hewn on section 15 west of Pigeon Lake. They had to be cut during the months of March and April in order to be hauled by sleighs to Glen Park, which at that time

was known as Buford. Some logs were hauled to Carl Johnson's saw mill to be made into rafters for the Hall.

. The local farmers then came and peeled the logs in the Spring, because at that time of the year the bark is easier to remove. All the shingles were sawn by Clarence Eklund and his brothers.

The building material was acquired by Mr. Stuart Olson and Mr. L.O. Anderson and the total cash outlay was less than \$800.00 Mr. Carl Eklund made and donated the rough hardware like bolts etc. The ladies of the community brought free lunch for the volunteer labourers.

During the weekends there would be as many as 100 volunteer labourers, men, women and children, anxious to have their community hall completed for their Sports Day. On August 9th, 1933 the Sports Day and grand opening of the hall was attended by a packed hall of jubilant revellers. Dixon's orchestra supplied the music.

The following excerpts were taken from the minutes of the Buford Community Club.

"At a representative gathering of the people of the Buford Community held in the Kulm school on March 4th, 1933, it was moved by Fjallar Johnson, seconded by Franz Carlson that we organize a meeting for the purpose of considering the advisability of building a community hall in Buford. Carried unanimously. Franz Carlson occupied the chair, Jack Hughes acted as Secretary."

"A meeting was held on March 12, 1933. \$170.00 in donations received. A building committee of 7 to be appointed by this meeting to oversee the getting of logs, lumber etc. for the proposed community hall.

Elected to Committees:

L.O. Anderson Helge Forsberg Franz Carlson Seth Samuelson Fjallar Johnson Hubert Jonson Stuart Olson



Ladies of the Glen Park Community Association. Left to Right — Back; Leona Yasheko, Ruth Eklund, Mildred Strautman, Ruth Helgren, Helga Hoyem, Rose Olson, Doris Modin, Karen Lindgren, Rose Jonson, Violet Olson, Seated; Hilda Modin, Florence Pearson, Dora Jonson and Ethel Forsberg. Front row, Irma Anderson, Effie Lindgren, Rosalyn Forsberg, and Shirley Forsberg. The club was organized in 1946 and still continues to function.

A motion was passed that the people present organize a club to be known as the Buford Community Club with a provisional executive to consist of five officials viz. President, Secretary-treasurer and 3 directors.

Officers elected:

President — Hubert Jonson

Sec. Treas. — Helge Forsberg

Directors:

Frans Carlson

Fjallar Johnson

L. Ole Anderson

Moved by J. Hughes and seconded by F. Johnson that the financial Committee be authorized to accept smaller cash contributions than \$5.00 with the understanding that such smaller contributions do not entitle contributors to a vote, carried.

Moved by H. Seal, seconded by Hubert Jonson that only those contributing a minimum of \$5.00 in cash or labour have the right to vote and further resolved that the scale of pay for labor be on this basis:

3 days labour — \$5.00

3 days labour (man and team) — \$10.00

carried unanimously.

Moved by Fjallar Johnson, seconded by Harold Seal, "resolved that a financial committee of seven be appointed to proceed forthwith with the collection of donations in cash or labour."

The following were elected:

Hubert Jonson Carl Eklund
Fjallar Johnson Harold Seal
Elof Abrahamson L.O. Anderson

Jack Hughes

The land was acquired from Mrs. L.O. Anderson—the S.E. Corner of section 5-49-27-W of 4th.

Minutes of directors Meeting December 13th.

Too many arguments.

Nothing discussed (Postponed).

On January 20th, 1934, Mr. & Mrs. Helge Forsberg held the first wedding dance in the Hall. For the past 44 years it has been the nucleus for square dances, meetings, whist drives, smorgasbords, sports days, family reunions, funerals and socials. It may also be interesting to note that, in 1940-41, picture shows were held by Mr. LaRose.

FRITZ AND EDITH HELGREN

by son, Wallace Helgren

Dad was born in Kulm, North Dakota on Sept. 23, 1894. Along with his parents, one brother (Rudolph) and three sisters (Hilma, Freida and Linda) they immigrated to Alberta in 1897. They arrived at Leduc in the spring, having travelled from the States by train. Leaving Leduc, they travelled through the Calmar and Conjuring Creek area and homesteaded on S.E. 6-49-27 W4, in the district that was to be known as Buford. One brother, Hirma and two sisters, Judith and Esther were born her.



Four brothers: Standing: Oscar Jonson, Isreal Helgren; Sitting: Gustaf Jonson, Rudolph Jonson.



J. Helgren.



Fritz & Edith Helgren Family, 1953.



Fritz & Edith Helgren, 40th Wedding Anniversary, 1960.

There were no roads or bridges at that time and Leduc was the nearest place for supplies. A store and Post Office was built in the early 1900's by L.O. Anderson.

On December 22, 1919, he married Edith Dahl, whose parents had also immigrated the same year and settled on the land next to theirs. Mom was born on November 26, 1900 and was the first baby girl to be born in the district.

They built a new home on the original homestead where they lived until 1959 at which time they sold the land to Art Hartke who still lives there. Mom and Dad raised a family of five children: Estelle, Clifford, Wallace, Henning and Leona. All the family are married and live in Alberta and British Columbia.

Estelle married William Wright and lives at Prince George, B.C. Clifford married Isobel Marcotte and lived at Terrace, B.C. I, (Wallace) married Ruth Miller and live at Glen Park. Henning married Peggy Chase and lives at Westerose, Alberta. Leona married Wilfred Alton and lives at Calgary, Alberta.

Dad passed away on September 26, 1964 and my brother Clifford passed away on August 18, 1974.

Mom lives in Edmonton and enjoys good health.

HELGREN — EKLUND "ANOTHER COUPLE OF GENERATIONS"

Written by Esther (Eklund) Olson

My heart goes out to those great, early pioneers who came and settled in Glen Park. My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Israel Helgren, had settled in 1888 in N. Dakota. Grandpa filed on a homestead in Glen Park for a mere \$10.00, in 1903 as provincial records show.

They had very few dollars with them from the bald prairies of Kulm, North Dakota. But with a large family of 8 children they had courage to go ahead, make do with whatever they had, and could make, plant, etc. However, they had lots of courage, ambition, unity, and were blessed with good health.

With a few neighbors who were willing to lend a helping hand, my grandparents had been settled for many a year, and were now quite prosperous by the year my own parents came west in 1916. Like the old saying went "Go west young man, Go West". Consequently, this was the ambition of my dad and mother (John and Hilma Eklund). They also found and followed the foot path from North Dakota to this great farm land of Glen Park. There, my dad bought 4 quarters of land, and built a small homestead to start out with. Then the land was cleared and broken for spring seeding. They wasted no time. Soon, we had a large, lovely home built. Dad and Mother worked very hard. We were 8 children all together (6 sons and 2 daughters). Sons: Clarence, Carl, Leo, Fritz, Floyd and Arnold, are all living in the Glen Park Area. The 2 daughters are Esther (Mrs. Stuart Olson who lives in Edmonton), and Mae (Mrs. Lesley Lindberg who lives in Calgary).

Some of the older children were being trained to help out with the many duties involved in looking after a farm. The boys were able to handle the machinery and driver the horses (with Dad's help). My dad's dream had come true. He could now do what his heart desired. He built himself a blacksmith shop, where he spent endless days of hard work, pounding away on plough shares, etc. for himself, as well as for all the neighbors who needed repair work done. He was a heavy, kind-hearted man, never charging his friends very much money for the work he would slave away at. But then he was happy to ask his neighbors and friends in to visit Mother, and to enjoy a cup of coffee — any time of the day.

I recall Dad taking the eldest son with him at all times. This one afternoon, they had hitched up the team of horses to the hay rack to gather in a full load of hay for the cattle to eat the next day. Coming home, the horses took a mean streak, and my dad could not hold them back. Both Dad and Clarence fell off the load. What a scare! Dad was alright but Clarence had a broken nose. After that the horses had to be watched carefully, as they took that "mean streak" quite often.



The John Eklund Family

Standing, Left to Right — Fritz Eklund, Esther Olson, Floyd Eklund, Edna Eklund, Clarence Eklund, Leo Eklund, Mae Lindberg, Arnold Eklund.

Sitting, Left to Right — Stuart Olson, Mrs. John Eklund and Lesley Lindberg.

Dad Eklund was a great sportsman. He loved fishing, hunting, trapping, and shooting ducks and geese. When winter would draw near, Dad would get out his catalogue, and order sheets of supplies, of nets, floats, and sinkers. The evenings were spent, getting all the fish nets ready for the opening of fish season on Pigeon lake. He also spent his time making "under ice Jiggers" which he enjoyed doing very much.

I recall one morning Dad getting out of bed at 4 a.m. Mounting his pony with gun and pack sack, he rode through heavy timber to Warburg, in search of big game. He soon arrived back, telling his sons to get the team of horses with bob sled ready to bring home the big game (deer) which he had shot. The deer had to be skinned, and we all enjoyed the meat (next to beef). Dad would then be flat on his back, resting after such a journey. Then Dad suffered a stroke, and had to retire to a more "relaxing way of life". He passed away at the age of 84 in 1960.

Mother Eklund was a very kind, dear, and ambitious person, with lots of courage. We all loved her very much. As busy as she was, she took time out to talk to us, give us advice on everything she knew. She was clever at everything. A good cook, sewed very well. I always remember coming home from school. Mother baked the best doughnuts, cinnamon buns, and bread. We were always welcome to eat our fill. Mother taught us girls how to keep a nice home, cook, bake, sew, knit, besides helping out with the side chores of milking cows. The cows had to be milked before we went to school, and because of this, we were sometimes late, as we also had two miles to walk — which was a fair hike.

Dad and Mother would take us children by horse and buggy to the Saturday night school dances. We were never allowed to go alone until we were at least 16 years old. Often they drove us to picnics at Pigeon Lake on a Sunday morning. We also went west of Warburg. Come fall, blueberry picking was a great sport. Being a large family, we had lots of fun.

I often recall going with neighbors and friends by horse and sled to dances at Pigeon Lake, and Calmar. I now often wonder how we ever got by without freezing our feet, taking such a long ride in the cold winter evenings. Often we would get out and run along side of the sled to keep warm — arriving home at daylight.

I was the second oldest in our family, and had plenty of responsibility, especially at times when Mom and Dad went away. I loved sports. I played basketball, and we girls were allowed to play baseball with the boys. I recall getting hit on the nose with a baseball one day — just as recess was ending. I had to sit at the water pump until my nose stopped bleeding, and also had to make excuses for being late for class. This was not funny to me at the time. I was a real "tom boy". I loved to climb trees, and I still do at many years of age. (me — Mrs. Esther Olson).

Now many years had passed and we were all young men and women, leaving home to make our own lives and look for "greener pastures". I met and married a lovely young, Swedish man by the name of Stuart Olson. He had arrived from Sweden, to Saskatchewan in 1919 — later coming to Edmonton, then to Glen Park, where we met and chummed around together for a few years. Realizing by that time that "it must be love", we were married on October 11th, 1930. This marriage has been a happy one. We made our home in Edmonton. Stuart Olson (my husband) was well known in his building trade (Contractor). Then came what we call "The Dirty Thirties". These were the "Depression Days" where most people were unemployed or "laid off". We had had little time to save money since were were married, and the money we did have went towards buying a car - which was a "must".

We never went on what was called the "bread line", instead, we packed our belongings and went looking for greener fields. We were invited to stay with my folks at Glen Park where Stuart was contracting on several jobs such as building the cheese factory for Woodland Dairy and a school. Stuart also was asked to organize a group of men to build the log Community Hall at Glen Park. He did all the supervising, and with his good knowledge — soon had the project completed. What a joy and pleasure this brought to the community.

By this time, we had a little money saved. So with our dear, sweet daughter Elaine we moved on to Pigeon Lake where we bought 2 lake front lots — not expensive in those days — at \$75.00 a lot.

That dear husband of mine borrowed a team of horses and bob sled from my dad, and every morning he would drive on the ice across the lake where, with a Swedish saw, he would cut the beautiful logs, pile them on the sled, and make his journey back. This would take a few days. Then the job followed to hew and pile the logs, in readiness to build our home. Everything was made by hand — windows, frames, shingles, doors, etc. Soon, we had our home completed.

This home still stands and looks the same. It is now being used as a summer house for our 5 grown children. Our families all love going to this place. We also have 14 grandchildren.

Stuart was the greatest—he would make any piece of work a "challenge" and he was immaculate at any task he endeavoured to do. Taking the winter job at fishing, buying and selling the fish, he hired men to help him as the fish had to be packed in ice and shipped to an American firm.

After 4 years of depression, the situation began to improve, and this meant "back to work". With my 4 children, we remained at our lake home, as we had a large garden, and 1 cow to take care of. The children were going to school at "Mulhurst", but we soon had a school built at Sandholm, which was closer for them to walk to.



John & Hilma Eklund Winter on the farm



The Isreal Helgren Family. Rudolph Helgren, John Eklund, Helma Eklund, Isreal Helgren, Evelina Helgren, Judyik Helgren, Frank Bjur, Freida Bjur, Linda Helgren and the Helgren grandchildren.

Stuart now returned to Edmonton where he formed his own contracting firm with a good friend of his. This firm was called "Mill and Olson Construction". They were well known and soon had plenty of work going for them. They were very active in the building world, and in building the future of Edmonton.

January the 12th, 1945, we had built ourselves a new home in Edmonton, ready to move in. On Jan. 19th the following year, we were blessed with a baby girl, Edyth.

Children:

Mrs. Elaine (Olson) Byford and Ken Mrs. Norma (Olson) White and Bill Mrs. Doreen (Olson) Scoffield and John Mr. Allan Olson

Mrs. Edyth (Olson) Florence and Rod

Just the greatest family ever, all married and living in Edmonton. Mr. Mill retired from the firm in 1958. At that time, Stuart formed his own business called "Stuart Olson Construction". Our son, Allan, now owns and operates the business. He received his Engineering degree at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and also has his Masters degree in business from London, Ontario.

Life, even though it was hard at the beginning, has been good to us, for which we give thanks to our Good Lord. Not only to us, but our families as well.

May we continue to enjoy good health, along with the good friendship of hundreds we have met along



Stuart Olson Family

Back row — Bill White, Norma White & baby, Elaine Byford, Ken Byford, Fran Olson, Allan Olson, Doreen & baby Russell, Edyth Olson.

Left to Right — Stuart, Dale, Valerie & Kerry, Mrs. Esther Olson holding Debra and Mrs. Stuart Olson sitting, holding Allan.



Eklund Family
Arnold, Floyd, Clarence, Mother Hilma Eklund, Esther Eklund, Dad John Eklund, Mae Eklund, Karl, Leo and Fritz.

the way. We appreciate them, and May God Bless All. 1972

We have now retired to a more "leisurely" way of living, keeping up a lovely home and garden — this being our pet project and hobby. We are golfers at the Mayfair Golf Club.

Travel has also been a part of our lives. We have been to Europe 3 times, to Hawaii 3 times, as well as to the United States, and touring Canada.

We also own a home (mobile) in Palm Desert Green's — California, where we spend 4 months during the winter, enjoying the warm sun, golfing and friends. Taking in Bob Hope Classic one year, I had the pleasure of meeting and shaking hands with such celebrities as Lawrence Welk, Tommy Hunter, Dean Martin, and saw many more. We often travel and visit through our favourite district of Glen Park, visiting and seeing many of our old friends there.

Home life has always been bright and cheerful with all our families and grandchildren around. We often get together during the summer months, as we are a very close knit family.

Christmas is something very special at our house. We celebrate on Christmas Eve, as this is an old Swedish custom and tradition. Our families arrive at the house at 4:30 p.m. and are served refreshments of coffee and cookies. This is followed by the singing of Christmas songs which includes the small children taking part, along with the older ones. Gifts are stacked around the beautifully decorated tree. The Christmas Feast commences at 6 p.m. sharp — a sit-down dinner consisting of 25 people. Prayers and good wishes are said, followed by the "crackling" of Christmas crackers. Then we all put on our fancy paper hats, and a toast is proposed (pink champagne is used for the toast). Our Christmas dinner consists of roast turkey, dressing, gravy, hot mashed potatoes, assorted salads, swedish herring, vegetables, coffee breads (Swedish) and sliced ham. The dessert is plum

pudding, served with coffee. We end the evening with more singing of Christmas Carols. With everyone helping to clear the table, wash dishes, we then adjourn upstairs to the front room to play games and do more singing.

At 9:30 a.m., the real Santa arrives at the door to deliver all the gifts to everyone, along with best Christmas Greetings. The children are all excited when this happens. Santa arrives at the door with the sounding of bells, and of singing out Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas.

After delivery of all the parcels is made, Santa leaves. Everybody opens up their beautifully wrapped gifts, and the floor is piled high with paper, ribbons, and everybody moves about with "kisses of thanks" for the gifts that they have received. After the clearing of paper, etc., coffee, Christmas cake, and drinks are served.

Stuart and I give thanks for all the blessings bestowed on us throughout the years.

Stuart and I and family have come through years of depression, inventions, explorations, atomic age. Seeing the riches of this great land of ours in Alberta — gas, oil, and coal, and rich minerals. Riches which were good, but maybe bad for some failures on the part of our dear, young people. We have seen and witnessed to temptation of drugs, pot, "H", by our younger generation. You name it, it was some where to be gotten by some "odd ball" selling dope to make himself a profit, and ruining the life of many a young person along the way, not to mention rape, suicides, murders, etc. Let us hope and pray that these young people will eventually find their way back to God, and in time lead, useful, and contributing lives.

Our space era was a remarkable time. Who would ever have thought in our time that we would live to see men "Walking on the moon" such as Armstrong and Gorman. Who knows what next, tomorrow — "one Big Step Forward".

MR. AND MRS. HERBERT HITCHCOX

By Maisie Hitchcox Hancock

Herbert and Gladys Hitchcox came to Canada in 1921 from England where Mr. Hitchcox was a policeman (bobby). They had one daughter Maisie.

On arriving from England we went to live with mother's brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Seal, in Edmonton. Dad and Mr. Seal each bought a quarter of land. Ours was SW 15-48-27 W4. Dad built a small house and we moved onto land which was covered with trees. He cleared some of the land with an axe, grubhoe and a team of horses. Then he broke it up with a one-furrow plough and 4 horses.

Dad also built a log house where we did most of our living. Mother and dad slept in the other house and I slept upstairs in the log house. Sometimes in the morning I would wake up and be covered with snow. I would have lots of warm covers though and when dad got the fires going it was really cozy.

In later years immigrants came from Europe and would brush the land for \$1.00 a day with room and board. They were very good workers, but could not speak English for awhile.

In the spring the mosquitos were so bad that dad used to make a smudge in a pail and hang it between two horses. He made holes in a galvanized pail and built a fire, then added green or wet material to make lots of smoke. He always wore a straw hat with a cloth hanging all around it to keep the mosquitos off. The horses had a little wire mesh basket over their noses for protection. We also made smudges in the yard for the cows.

We always had a large garden with lots of vegetables and flowers. Some vegetables were stored in the cellar and the others were canned. We also had cows, chickens and pigs.

Dad dug our well by hand. It was a hole in the ground about 4 ft. by 4 ft. When it got too deep to throw out the dirt, we would haul it up with a pail on a long rope. By this time it was mud and water. Sometimes we upset it on dad. When the well was finished, he had to line it with cribbing he made of boards and 2 x 4s. He made it a little too snug and it wouldn't go down so he put mother on top and she was supposed to wiggle it down, but it stuck. We used to lower our cream and things into the well to keep them cool.

Sometimes mother made cheese with whole milk. She would wrap it in cheesecloth and put it in pans

with no bottoms and then put it on the roof of the house with a rock on top for a press. We usually had most of it eaten before it was cured.

Our butter and eggs we would take to Calmar to Joe Hoffman's trading store 12 miles away and trade them for groceries. This was done with a team of horses and a wagon or sleigh. Mother used to raise turkeys and about two days before Christmas we would kill and pluck them and take them into Joe Hoffman's and trade them for winter clothes.

When the pigs were ready for market, dad used to take them with a team of horses to Leduc 22 miles away where he would get \$5.00 per pig, and sometimes it was only \$3.00. This used to take two days.

Dad cut trees and made a log barn with straw on top. This worked fine until it rained. It would drip for days. When we sat down to milk the cows, it always dripped down our necks.

The school I went to was 3 ³/₄ miles away, Conjuring Lake School, and if I could get a horse to ride I was happy. But when the horses were all working I would have to walk.

In the fall dad would haul a load of wheat to the flour mill and bring home several bags of flour, some cream of wheat, bran and Sunny Boy. When the bags were empty we used to wash and bleach them and make sheets, tea towels, table cloths, and some we dyed with Rit dye and made into clothes.

Our food was not elaborate, but we usually had enough to eat. We would have Yorkshire (batter) pudding quite a lot as this was cheap and would stretch the other food. Sometimes a little sausage meat was added to the batter (called "toad in the hole") and with vegetables was a good meal. When raspberries were in season we would put some into the batter before cooking and eat with cream and sugar. When the roast was about finished, mother would mince it up with some onions, maybe add a little rolled oats and cook in the oven. Sometimes mashed potatoes were put on top of the meat for shepherd's pie.

On special days we had trifle (sponge cake, jello and custard). We used to have quite a few steamed puddings, also milk puddings. There used to be quite a few rabbits so I would snare them and we had rabbit stew with dumplings. In the winter we would get new snow and make snow muffins.

Also in the winter dad would cut trees and haul them in for firewood. In the spring someone who



The first barn built on the Herbert Hitchcox farm.

owned a big saw and engine would come around and we would have a sawing bee. Then the wood had to be split and piled for stove wood. When dad had time he sawed down large trees and hauled them to the sawmill for lumber. He then built on to the house to make more room.

We had no rugs or vinyl in those days so mother used to stain the floors with Rit dye and make wax with coal oil and parawax to polish them. In the winters we made mats and quilts. Our meat we used to can. The pork was put in brine (how it stunk!).

Mother also kept some bees. Wild fruit was plentiful. This I picked and we made lots of jam and jelly.

Mother was always very fond of her mangle. When the clothes were dry, she would fold them and put them through the mangle. This saved lots of ironing.

When harvest time came around, dad cut the crop with a binder and horses. Then he stooked it. The threshing rig would come with steam engine, threshing machine, water wagon, several teams and racks, wagons, and boxes for hauling grain and about 14 men in all. The farmers all had to work on the threshing crew. It was up at 5 o'clock and to bed by one. The horses and men all had to be fed and bedded. The men had 5 meals a day and there were no fridges



George Hancock



Herbert Hitchcox August 1914

or deep freezes then. The grain all had to be shovelled by hand.

George Hancock came to Canada from Nottingham, England in 1928. He worked out for a couple of years and then came to work for us.

We used to go to dances in the winter with a team and sleigh or on horseback. On Sundays we went to church in the Conjuring Lake school house. Our minister was Mr. Parker from Millet.

When George and I got married (April 7, 1935) we decided to have the ceremonty in our house (it had grown a lot by then.) We had to go to Millet and fetch the minister with horses and sleigh. The roads were very narrow and icy and on the way home the sleigh began to slide and we all got upset into a ditch full of snow. The minister went home with someone else. That night it snowed and blew and we were snowed in for 2 weeks. There were no snowplows then.

We then moved to William Howard's farm (he had



Mr. & Mrs. George Hancock, 1938, in front of their house.

just built a new house) and worked for him for one year. George built a little house on dad's farm and we moved back there. In January 1938 we decided to go to England for awhile so we sold and gave away our belongings. Lawrence Burgess bought our house and is living in it still.

We went by train to Halifax and then by ship to England. It was a very rough trip and I was very sick. We went to Sutton Surrey where George's mother's dad, mother and one sister lived. I stayed with them and George went on to Nottingham to find a place for us to live. He got a job with his uncle driving a truck (lorry).

Gwen was born in Nottingham on April 14, 1938. When the war started, George was called up (into the Air Force) and I got my first job.

George's mother, sister, and stepbrother lived in Nottingham. They helped me to learn the English ways - a lot different from ours. One of the jobs I had was in a bakery where we made pork pies.

George was sent overseas in November 1941 and Georgina (Nina) was born January 16, 1942. He came home for a short leave in 1945 and was then sent to Belgium. Later that year another daughter was born, but didn't live. George came home on compassionate leave as I was very sick for a long time.

Times were very hard in England during the war. Rationing was very tight and you had to register at one shop only. You never had to have a list as everything was packed up for you: 1 oz. lard, 1 oz. margarine or butter, 1 oz. bacon, 1 oz. tea, 1 oz. sugar, and so on. The meat was so scarce we had it just one day a week. Milk, flour and bread were also rationed. For a small bag of flour, you had to give up one loaf of bread. Vegetables were also in short supply and there was very little fruit. Now and then we could get a couple of eggs. The mothers were so happy when a shipment of bananas came and we queued for hours. Then the children wouldn't eat them as they had never seen them before. Gwen was then 8 years old. For all the special things you had to queue. It got so that if you saw a lineup of people you joined in.

In March 1948 we turned tail and came back to Canada and went to work for William Howard. Gwen and Nina went to Lake Centre School. In Nov. 1949 Nina passed away. Soon after Gwen changed to Humble School, then Calmar High. After graduating she worked in the Bank of Montreal.

She met Ron Busenius who worked for brother Bill and Mid Alta Lumber in Leduc. They were married on Feb. 12, 1960 and soon after moved to Swan Hills. Gwen helped to run a branch of the Bank of Montreal out of a trailer and Ron worked for McFarlan Lumber. They returned to Leduc in 1961 and Colin was born on October 11, 1961.

Later they moved to New Sarepta where they had two more boys, Darren born on March 8, 1963 and Dean on Oct. 14, 1965.



Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Hitchcox, 1961.

Ron had his own lumber yard for a few years, Rose Wood Products. He sold it and went trucking. Gwen is a secretary in the elementary school.

In 1960 mother and dad bought a house in Calmar and we bought their farm. Dad passed away Oct. 24, 1970. Mother lived on in Calmar until May 1975. She then moved to Armena until the fall of 1975 when she moved into Salem Manor on South Park Drive in Leduc.

Herbert Hitchcox born Feb. 12, 1886 -- Gladys Hitchcox June 15, 1989. Their daughter Maisie Hitchcox born June 14, 1916. George Hancock born Dec. 16, 1914 (Maisie's husband.)

REBEKKA HOYEM STORY

by Herself

I left Norway in 1911 to join my husband who had a homestead in the Viking district of Alberta. Previous to my marriage I was employed in an office in Bergen, Norway doing typing and shorthand. I had a lot to learn before I could adapt myself to the lonely life on a

Mrs. Rebekka Hoyem on her 90th birthday, on the lawn of her own home.



prairie homestead, with all the tiresome chores that had to be attended to every day.

It was fortunate however that I had learned to speak and write some English before I came to Canada.

My husband had a good education and for awhile he was engaged as a teacher in a private school near Trondheim, Norway. Later he went to Oslo university to study theology. It was his parents wish that he should become a minister in the Lutheran church, but that didn't appeal to him.

He had a desire to travel and see other places, so he ended his studies and decided to immigrate to Canada in 1907, where his oldest brother had taken up a homestead. My husband worked at different jobs, such as a "lumberjack" and a cooks' helper in camps, and finally acquired a homestead near Viking, Alberta.

After nearly 4 years he went back to Norway for a short visit, and April 2, 1911 we were married. He returned to Canada to build and prepare a house for us and I followed a few months later, as I have mentioned before.

In December 1918 we sold the homestead and our livestock. The following spring (1919) we moved to the Buford district now called Glen Park. One of my husband's friends recommended that place so we bought some land there, E½ 27-48-27 W5.

It was a tough time for farmers during those depression years, when prices on all farm products were so very low.

It was difficult to keep up payments on land and machinery etc. We lived there until 1927 when we sold out and went to B.C. in search of a suitable place to live.

When nothing was found we returned to the Buford district in 1927 where we bought a farm NE 19-48-27 W4. There was a lot of bush and big trees on that place. It took hard work to get it cleared for producing grain crops.

We had 5 children: Ingrid, married to Henry Modin (farmer). Alf married to Helga Forsberg (farmer). Charlothe Louise, married to Edward Sorenson (livestock dealer & farmer). Julianne Marie married to Gunnard Tulk (employed at the airport in Vancouver B.C.) Ivar married to Olive Salo employed in an office in Edmonton. There are many decendants after us: 14 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.



Fishing on Pigeon Lake, 1936. Alf Hoyem and Gust Wickstrom



Breaking our land with steam-engine operated by Frans Melin, 1930.

Alf has taken over the homeplace, except for 21 acres which Ivor Jr. has bought. Ingrid and Alf attended Humble School but when we moved to the present location all the children attended Kulm School, and later the youngest, Ivor Jr. graduated from Calmar High School.

Ingrid passed away in 1963, only 50 years old. My husband passed away in 1974, nearly 86 years old. In my long life, I am 91 years old, I have seen many changes in lifestyles and farming operations. With all the modern machinery and equipment, farmwork certainly is much easier these days.



Children L. to R. Back row, Charlotte Hoyem, Marie Hoyem, Helga Forsberg, Everet Forsberg, in front Emmy Forsberg.

country at the age of 17, first settling in Wisconsin and

THE ALBERT HUBER STORY

by the Children

Our father was one of a set of twin boys born in Zurick, Switzerland, on February 8, 1876. His twin brother passed away in infancy. Dad came to this

Montana, U.S.A. for a few years. However, this was not where he wanted to make his home so he decided to come to Canada. He arrived in Strathcona. Edmonton, in 1903. Dad was known as a very hard working man and had no problem finding work. He was hired as a brewmaster in a brewery, at that time known as the Bohemian Maid.

> He marched in the parade at the Alberta Provincial Inaugurational celebration on September 1, 1905. Shortly after the inauguration he met a girl by the name of Ernestine Brown who became his wife on November 27, 1906.

> Our mother, after losing both parents, came to Canada from Germany at the age of seven to live with distant relatives. This would not be easy for such a young child. After she grew up she did housework at various places before meeting and marrying our dad. Deciding that they would like to go farming they filed on a homestead in the Warburg district in 1908.

> In the early spring of 1909 Dad went out and with the help of some very good neighbours, the Winfield Scotts, John and Mike McHughs, Tim Donahue and Steve Tripp, was able to build a log shack. Then in the spring of 1910 the brewery gave Dad a team of horses and a set of harness. We cannot recall where he got the wagon. Anyway, he and Mother along with two small children, Bertha and Ernest, moved out to this land for the summer, or just long enough to clear and break a



Grandfather Huber 89 years, May 30, 1925.

small piece of land. In those days the clearing was done with an axe and grubhoe. Then the land was broken with a plow and team of horses, not an easy task for anyone. For the winter we went back to Strathcona where Dad still had his job and returned to the homestead again in the spring to clear some more land. This went on till the early spring of 1913, when our parents decided to move out to stay.

Dad kept clearing and breaking some land each summer, a slow and tedious task which involved a lot of hard work. He continued to work out in the fall for our winter supply of groceries. In the meantime, Mother washed clothes and baked bread for the bachelors. No washing machines in those days — the laundry was done on a washboard and the water had to be heated on the stove.

Our main meat supplies were bear and rabbit. Dad used to dig a big hole and criss-cross it over the top with twigs and cover it with straw or hay. When a rabbit or bear walked over the top of this straw they would fall through the sticks into the hole and would not be able to get out, so there was our meat. There was no money so we were not able to buy shells even though Dad had a 22 rifle.

There were no churches so the Reverend Oelkers held services in our home. As there were no roads these services were only held once in a while. Visiting our neighbours was the only entertainment we had and these visits were few and far between.

One event that Bertha, the eldest Huber daughter, is not about to forget is the time she was sent to the Scotts on an errand and on her way home she met her dad's horses. Knowing that they were needed in the

Right — Albert Huber, 1910. Beer Vat at Bohemian Maid Brewery where he worked. Vats capacity 3200 gallons.

Below — Teamsters leaving the brewery with beer for resale.



Mr. & Mrs. Albert Huber and two eldest children Bertha & Ernest, taken in Strathcona, Winter of 1911 - 1912.





morning, she thought she would herd them towards home. However, the horses headed the other way and before Bertha realized what was happening she was lost. Barefoot, she walked back and forth in the bush, through the meadow and finally, too tired to go any further, she lay down beside a haystack and fell asleep. The next morning when she awoke she found out she was right across the Strawberry Creek from the John Anderson place which was located two miles north of her home. She crawled across the creek on a log and knocked on the door of the Anderson home at 6:00 a.m. Mrs. Anderson took her in and gave her breakfast. From what she has told the family it was the best bowl of oatmeal porridge she had ever tasted. Bertha had not had anything to eat since noon the day before. After breakfast, Clara, the Anderson's daughter, took her home on horseback. We can well imagine our parents' happiness at seeing their 8-vear-old daughter safe.

Bertha and Ernest, along with the Eric Ohrn, Hager, Stone, Brozny, Arp, McAllister and Malloy children started school in the Sunnybrook School, which at that time was located one mile north and one mile east of the town of Warburg. Since then this school has been moved into the town of Warburg. Mr. Francis Hatch was their teacher and a very good one. School supplies consisted of only a reader, slate and slate pencil.

Again, our parents were looking for greener pastures and were able to rent an improved farm in Buford, now Glen Park, from Mr. Charlie Buckell. We moved to Buford in March of 1919. By this time we had a few cows and chickens which kept us in groceries and in time Dad was able to invest in some second-hand machinery. Things were beginning to improve.

Our home was known to many people as the stopping place. People coming from Breton, Carnwood, Warburg and the Rabbit Hill area hauling lumber and fence posts to Leduc would stop to rest and feed the horses, often spending the night.

The following year Dad purchased a quarter of land adjoining the Buckell place. There were only a few acres broken on this land which meant a lot of hard work ahead. By this time we milked 15 cows besides having several hogs and we were beginning to manage quite well. Dad cleared all this land by hand and had it broken. He began to put up some buildings and, with the help of Mr. Andrew Dickson, he built a house and was able to move onto his own land in 1927.

Mother and Dad raised seven children: three daughters, Bertha, Elsie and Ruth; four sons, Ernest, Herman, Henry and Mervin.

Dad became ill during the winter of 1965/66 and was hospitalized. He passed away on the 7th of June, 1966 at the age of 90 years.

Mother has been in a wheelchair since 1963 and resides in the Good Samaritan Auxiliary Hospital. At present she has 29 grandchildren, 50 greatgrandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.



The three Huber girls Left to Right — Elsie Miller, Bertha Anderson Mader, Ruth Bablitz, 1948.



Mr. & Mrs. Albert Huber and Mervin Huber.

Bertha married Edwin Anderson of Glen Park. He passed away in 1948. They had three children. Bertha remarried this time marrying John Mader of Edmonton who passed away in 1975. Bertha resides in Edmonton.

Ernest married Susan Thalbery of Saskatchewan. They have three children. Ernest and Susan reside in Leduc.

Elsie married Theodore Miller of Rabbit Hill. Elsie passed away in 1975 and her husband Theodore passed away in 1977. They had four children.

Herman married Frieda Tonn of Poland. They reside in Leduc and have four children.

Henry married Ruby Hanson of Genesee. They reside on a farm at Glen Park and have 12 children.

Ruth married Ferdinand Bablitz of Calmar. He passed away in 1967. They had four children. One son, Ronald, passed away in 1972. Ruth resides with her son on a farm near Calmar.

Mervin stayed a bachelor and lives on the family farm at Glen Park.

MR. & MRS. AUGUST JOHNSON

by Lillian French

August Johnson was born in Morotrack, Norabotten, Sweden and immigrated to North Dakota in 1882.

Matilda Peterson was born in Blaking, Karlskruna, Sweden on Janurary 1st, 1852. She immigrated to Chicago, U.S.A. when she was a young girl and often spoke of the rides she had on the street cars which were pulled by horses. In 1890, she went to North Dakota, and the following year married August Johnson. Five children were born to them. Tragedy struck when triplets, all girls, were stillborn. Chester was born in March of 1895, and Fjallar in November of 1896.

The family was among the first settlers to arrive in Buford, Alberta, in October, 1899. They arrived by an immigrant train to Leduc, then travelled to Buford by horse and wagon. Their first winter was spent in the home of Mr. John Olson. The family suffered many heartbreaks and in 1916, August Johnson passed away. Mrs. Johnson boarded school teachers for \$2.50 a month. Fjallar informs us that the first school was held for two months during the year, increasing to four months and six months in the following two years. In his own words, Fjallar figures he was a cute little devil as he managed to receive 5¢ a kiss from his first school teacher.

Chester and Fjallar were very active in community affairs and were highly respected citizens. Chester became Justice of the Peace, an ungrateful service which he rendered the community for many years. He owned the first typewriter in the district as well as the first crystal radio set. It was an unforgettable experience when he kindly offered his head set to visiting neighbors. Music and voices from far away lands was indeed a unique experience in those days. He married Olive Rippen from Wetaskiwin and three children were born to them: Denzil, who lives in Victoria, Stewart (Buddy) who married Laura Jonson and lives in Grimshaw, and Gwendolyn, who is married to a serviceman lives in Toronto. Chester passed away in March, 1948.

Fjallar married Mary Sharkey and they are at present living in Breton, Alberta. For the past 61 years, he has spent his time fishing and playing cards.

Matilda Johnson celebrated her 100th birthday on January 1st, 1952 and passed away the following month.

Some statistics on first pioneers in the Glen Park District.

Jonas Johnson Married Mia, They had 3 children — Eva, Oscar J. and Anton.

Eva married Victor Flodin and they had one daughter Christine. She married Ivor Lundmark.

Oscar Oslund and Hannah had four sons — Harold, Rudolph, Humpus and Manfred. Humpus and Lennea his wife lived on the original farmstead. They had 3 children — Roy, Kenneth, Trudy. Roy

married Alexandra Rusnick and they now live on the farm.

Eric Osterberg sold his farm to Herman Miller.

Dr. Madelung a dentist who arrived from Denmark built a mansion on his farm close to Conjuring Lake. He believed his animals, chickens and living quarters should all be under the same roof. He had two sons and a daughter, Nels, John and Valberg. The farm was sold to Lewis Nasby.

FJALLER JOHNSON

Related by Fjaller

Fjaller was born on Nov. 5, 1896 in Kulm, North Dakota. His parents Mr. and Mrs. August Johnson, with Chester and Fjaller, moved from Kulm to Alberta in Oct. 1899. They came to a place 10 miles southwest of Calmar and this district was later named Kulm after the Kulm in North Dakota. There were nine other families who moved with the Johnson family.

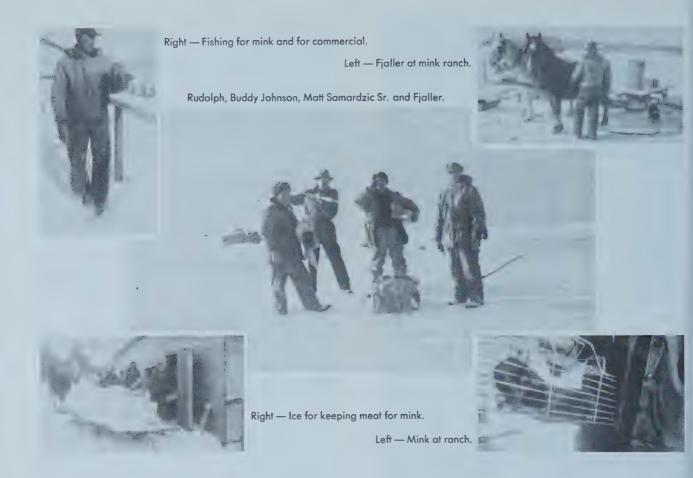
The houses they lived in were log. Some had home-made shingles and some had sod roofs. In the spring of 1900 they seeded about an acre of land to a garden after having to clear and break the ground. For meat they had lots of ducks, prairie chickens and partridges, also deer, moose and fish. A house was built during the winter and spring of that year and they moved into it in 1900.

A school was built in 1902 and the teacher was Annie Evans. School was taught for only two months during the first year as that was all they could afford to pay a teacher. All of the pupils were Swedes and the teacher was English but they soon learned the English language. The next year the teacher was Miss Lawson and they had school for four months. The teachers were paid \$60.00 a month. In 1909 there were six months of school. At times there were over 50 pupils and eight different grades. Some of the children had to walk over three miles so arrangements were made for a child with a democrat and horse to pick up some of the children who had over three miles to walk.

There were no churches in the district so they used the schoolhouse and ministers of any denomination could hold meetings. Sundays were spent playing basketball, football or baseball. Teams from different districts would get together and compete. In the evenings the neighbors would get together and play cards, mostly whist.

A Swedish newspaper was printed in Winnipeg and was received every Saturday evening. It was called the Canada Posten and the mail was brought in by horseback from Conjuring Creek and later from Calmar.

Chester and Fjaller farmed the home quarter until 1926, then Chester got married and farmed the home farm and Fjaller bought a quarter of school land in 1927 and farmed it until 1931. He then sold it and bought 18 acres at Pigeon Lake beach which he then sub-divided. It is now called Sandholm. He lived there until 1938 and then bought a farm in the Centre Lodge



district and farmed it until 1945 when he sold it and bought a mink ranch at Sandholm.

In March of 1948 Fjaller married Mary Sharkey and they operated the mink ranch until 1949. During this time he would buy horses for about \$5.00 each. Their meat was mixed with fish which were caught (some out of season) in Pigeon Lake. He would receive about \$18 to \$30. for a mink pelt and raised about 200 to 250 at a time.

When they sold the mink ranch they bought a quarter of land on the shore of Pigeon Lake and he sub-divided it into Johnsonia Beach (named after him). They kept three acres back for themselves and lived there until 1977.

During the years 1930 to '36 Fjaller was a Municipal Councilor for the M.D. of Leduc. He received one week holiday in the Palliser Hotel in Calgary and one week in the Macdonald Hotel in Edmonton to attend conventions, plus a very small salary.

He fished Pigeon Lake every year from 1918 to 1978 and never missed a year. During the years 1924 to about 1950 the fish from Pigeon Lake were shipped to New York and Chicago in special refrigerated cars and they got the highest price of any fish at that time.

Mary and Fjaller are now living in retirement in Breton, and he is looking forward to going fishing in 1979.

GUSTAF JONSON

by Gustaf Jonson Jr.

My father, Gustaf Sigrid Jonson, was born on October 11, 1873. He left Sweden on March 16, 1893. He went to Kulm, North Dakota. Where he had his sister and lots of friends from Sweden. It was a Swedish settlement at Kulm. He took up a homestead at Kulm. His land was sandy and poor. He got himself 3 oxen and 1 milk cow. The oxen he used for breaking the land. It did not rain very much at Kulm so the crops were poor every year. The hay and feed that he gave to his oxen and cow had to be hauled by wagon from 50 miles away. The soil was so sandy that he had to go to the blacksmith every day to have the plow shares sharpened. The days were so warm that he could only drive his oxen in early morning and late in the evening. He said that he was unable to make twenty-five cents a day in the clear when he was breaking land for others. He got about \$2.50 per acre.

He stayed on the homestead at Kulm for about 3 years. He then sold all he had and went to Alberta, to the place on of his brothers was, 22 miles southwest of Leduc. His brother's name was Israel Helgren and there were also two other families from Kulm, North Dakota. Their names were John Olaf Dahl and Dahl's brother who had taken another name and was called Davis. Israel Helgren was a full brother to Gustaf Sigfrid Jonson. Israel had taken that name himself.

Davis and family did not like Alberta so they went back to Kulm, North Dakota.

When Gustaf came, he built a house on the land that he liked the best and made himself a home. The other families moved quite a bit. They were unable to make up their mind which land they liked the best.

He came over the ocean on a cattle boat. He fed and took care of the cattle on the boat so he got free food and I think he said that he did not have to pay much for the fare on the boat. When he crossed the ocean, there were many bad storms and the ship got bashed up quite a bit. He made up his mind that if he could put his feet on dry ground again, he would never cross the ocean again.

Gustaf when planting his garden in the spring, put in his seed on top of the sod roof of his barn so the wild rabbits could not get at his vegetables. He always had a

good garden.

On March 6th, 1900 he went to Edmonton and put in a claim on his homestead to be, the N.W. 20-48-27 W4. He went to Edmonton 2 days ahead of time to make sure that he could be the first man to file a claim on that homestead where he lived. He obtained a title to his homestead on April 30, 1903.

Israel Helgren, applied for homestead S.E. 6-49-27 W4, on February 26, 1903 and obtained a title to the land on May 29, 1905. Oscar Jonson, a brother to Gustaf S. Jonson, applied for homestead S.E. 30-48-27 W4 on May 17, 1901 and got a title to the land on May 26, 1905.

Rudolph Jonson born July 3, 1869, a brother to Gustaf S. Jonson, went from Sweden to North America on May 22, 1889. I do not know what year or month he moved to a homestead at Glen Park.

Gustaf S. Jonson went back to Kulm, North Dakota in the year 1909 to get a Swedish girl for his wife. The girl was Maria Magdalena Johansson. She had come to Kulm, North Dakota in March, 1909. She was born January 17, 1877 in Sweden. Gustaf S. Jonson and Maria were married in the spring of 1910. The first child was a girl, Miranda Maria. She was born October 17, 1910. The next child was a girl, Swea Linea Minnie, born August 7, 1912. The next was a boy. I do not know what year. He died shortly after birth. The next child was a girl, born on December 5. 1916. Her name is Naomi Sofia. The last child to be born was a boy. The name they gave him was the same as his father, Gustaf Sigfrid Jonson. All names that I have put down on this paper are in Swedish. Sigfrid was born July 22, 1918.

Here is how I remember Alberta when I was a small boy: We got rain nearly every day and at times many showers a day. Water, water, everywhere. The creeks in summer were always running strong and making a terrific sound. There were rabbits by the millions. The birds and frogs were billions. They made so much noise in the evenings that it was not easy to go to sleep. We had no roads. We used the old beaver dams as roads. There were lots of wild berries. My eyes are very poor so I will close for now.

STORY OF KARL RUDOLPH JONSON

submitted by Donald Johnson

Many pioneers speak of the good old days. Everyone salutes them on their valiant efforts to tame the new land and enjoys listening to them tell of their trials and tribulations. How good were those "Good Old Days"?

What will be recorded has to do with Karl Rudolf Jonson (known as K.R. Jonson) who had 3 brothers, Oscar, Gustoff and Israel. They all came to North Dakota from Sweden in the 1890s.

In 1899, K.R. Jonson and his wife (Christina Bjur) and their 3 children journeyed from North Dakota to Leduc, Alberta. On that journey, many tales lay therein, but, the episodes best remembered are of daring determination.

One such experience happened on their way to Leduc. Travelling through Montana their scout spotted Indians on the warpath. The Jonsons already had made camp for the night as it was late afternoon. The scout urged them to leave immediately. They hitched their tired horses and oxen back to the covered wagons, and drove all night and the next day. avoiding contact with the Indians. Later they arrived to see the Red Deer River flooded due to the heavy rains. In order to cross, a horse swam across the river, a man hanging on to its tail, and a rope was tied to the saddle. The rope was long enough to span the river, so that when it was anchored on each side the wagon was pulled across, then each wagon box or covered wagon. Many hours later, with much danger to life and limb, they got all their possessions across.

Arriving in Leduc, K.R. left his family and wagon at the livery stable. He rode a horse 15 miles west and 5 miles south of Leduc, where he staked his homestead

claim on a quarter section of land.

This having taken all day, and being afraid of getting lost in the dark, K.R. cut his way into a thick willow bog. He then tore some tall grass from a swamp for a bed, tied his horse to the willow bush near the entrance, and crawled into the hole. Putting an axe across the opening, he spent his first night with the mosquitoes and wild animals on his new homestead.

The first year they built a log cabin which had one room and a sod roof. He broke his first acre of land, with a horse and a cow hitched to the walking plow. They had to use a cow, as one horse had died due to the harsh winter. Later K.R. bought the first stallion, either a Clydesdale or Belgian. This was so that the community could improve the type of horse needed for farming.

In the next few years K.R.'s wife took sick and in the winter he had to walk to Leduc many times for medicine and supplies since the horses were weak from lack of feed, and he saved them for spring work. On these 40-mile walks, he carried up to 60 pounds of supplies back from Leduc.

In 1904 K.R.'s wife died leaving 3 children, Abner, Warner, and Elsa. In 1906, K.R. rode back to



Abner and Warner with their parents Rudolph and Christine Johnson (1897 - 98)

North Dakota where he married Annie Lundstrom. While there he bought a wagon and horses for the trip home. Of this marriage 6 children were born: Hubert, Karl, Leo, Albert, Florence and Julia. In 1934 when his second wife died, he donated the land for the Glen Park Cemetery. Blayne Johnson (Albert's son) lives on, and farms the homestead.

K.R. had one of the first cars in the community, a Model T Ford which Abner and Warner used for their courting.

Abner and Warner bought a quarter section of land NE 21-27-48-W4 in 1913. Abner married Adelia Wickstrom and lived on the north 80. In 1921 Warner married Margaret Engstrom and lived on the

south 80. Margaret came to Canada in 1907 with her parents, brothers, and sister from Sweden. Margaret's mother cooked for the railway crew for many years. About the year 1917, Margaret came to live with August Johnson (no relation to K.R.) About this time Warner changed the spelling of his name to Johnson. Margaret and Warner lived on the south 80 for 14 years. They had 5 children: Lloyd, Vernon, Doris, Donald, and Leslie.

On March 12, 1935, Margaret and Warner moved their house 2 miles south and 1 mile west (SW 16-27-48-W4) where it still stands. With the help of neighbors (Arthur Dahl, Tiffany Sorenson, Abner and Hubert Jonson) they moved the two-storey house with bobsleighs and horses. They experienced much freezing and many difficulties in the move. Prior to moving, Warner had donated land to build a school on Section 16. The Lake Centre School was built later that year with monetary assistance from Mr. Bostrom. The carpentry was done by Stuart Olson. Early teachers were Mrs. T. Monaghan and Helen Erickson, who are lovingly remembered by all. The school also became the community centre for all activities, with many of us remembering dances and the beautiful music played by the Sorenson family.

Warner, Margaret and family lived on this land until 1952, when, because of Warner's ill health, they moved to Camrose. In 1966 Warner and Margaret moved back to Leduc where they resided until their deaths. Their sons still own and work the 2 farms.

Elsa Jonson at a young age moved back to Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. and married Clarence Dodge. They had a family of 3: Harvey, Dorothy, and Leo.



Warner and Elsa Johnson (Elsa now Mrs. Charles Muffet)



Warner Johnson and Karl Lundstrom (step uncle)



Isaac Helgren (Jonson), Oscar Jonson, Rudolph Jonson, Gustov Jonson.



Front row — Margaret and Warner Johnson. Center — Doris Johnson. Back row — Donald, Vernon, Lloyd, Leslie Johnson.

No doubt all those who have resided in the Glen Park and Lake Centre areas will recall many other names and interesting experiences from those days so memorable. Those "Good Old Days" we look back on were because of the kind, generous, and loving people.

Lloyd Johnson married Angela Pletnek and lives on a farm, and had a family of 4: Robert, Jennette,

Beverly (deceased 1964), and Roland.

Vernon married Dorthea Stuebmer and lives in Edmonton, works for the Alberta Wheat Pool, and has a family of 3. Their children are Bradley, Cameron, and Lorriann.

Don married Anne Senft, lives in Edmonton, and works with Texaco. They have a family of 2 (Linda and Rodrick).

Doris married Roger Young, and they have 1 daughter, Cindy. They reside in Edmonton.

Leslie married Jill Stickels. They have a family of 2 (Scott and Dianne), and reside in Castlegar, B.C. where Leslie works with insurance.



First Class in Lake Center School which was built on Warner Johnson's place. Teacher Bertha Monagan (not in picture) May 1936. Agnes Pletnik, Doris Johnson, Vernon Johnson, Ray Melin, Ralph Melin, Benny Stroh, Lloyd Johnson, Inez Melin, Faye Hermon, Georgia Britton, Roberta Britton, Josephine Komperdo, Helen Pletnik, Angela Pletnik and Agnes Komperdo.

THE OSCAR JONSON STORY

by Huram Jonson

My parents, Oscar and Clara Jonson, brought me as a baby of eight months from Kulm, North Dakota, to the small settlement of Buford, twenty-two miles southwest of Leduc in April, 1900. We travelled by train to Leduc along with a railroad car shared with our friends, the Jonas Johnsons. It contained household effects, some farm implements, cattle and horses.

On arrival at Leduc, we were met by most of the Buford settlers. Dad told me that among them were three of my uncles: Gust, Rudloph, and Israel Helgren, all of whom had already been homesteading there for two years.

After the contents of the railway car were unloaded, the horses hitched to wagons loaded with all our belongings and us, we started off with the cattle driven and following behind.

My parents and I lived with my bachelor uncle, Gust, for one year until buildings were ready on our own homestead, $E\frac{1}{2}$ 30-47-28-W4. During the first seven years there, my sister, Rhoda, and brothers, Halvar and Lenus, were born. Dad and Mother celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in the original house in 1946, and continued to live on the same land until their deaths in 1947 and 1953 respectively.

My maternal grandparents, August and Charlotte Anderson, with Aunt Freida, came out from Sweden in 1902, with the Ludwig Nystrom family, all of whom lived with us until they had buildings on their own homesteads.

Grandpa and Grandma Anderson lived in Buford district for four years and then returned to Sweden where they traded, sight unseen, their property at Buford to the Victor Forsberg family for their home in Sweden, who then came out to live and farm among us.

In due course, a school district was formed and a one-room schoolhouse was built. As most of the settlers around there had come from Kulm, North Dakota, that was the name given to the school. Many were the Christmas concerts and lively debates enjoyed their over the years. Later, a two-room school was built one mile from the first site but it retained the name.

For many years, the school teachers boarded at our house. To name a few, they were Nettie Svenson, two Garbie sisters, Ella McClane, Bertha Skjel, and Jack Hughes.

During the early years, our home was a stopping place for many travellers that included preachers, R.C.M.P., peddlers, among others, regardless of nationality or creed.

My first trip to Leduc was in the fall of 1905. Uncle Gust Jonson travelled with us as he had a cow to market which was tied behind the wagon. As twenty-two miles was a long way for a cow to walk, we had to start at 3:00 A.M. and go slowly. My father had five 50-pound tubs of homemade butter to sell, the money from which he spent on a good supply of groceries and flour as it would be several months before coming to Leduc again. The trip took over seven hours so we certainly enjoyed the full course dinner we bought at the hotel for twenty-five cents each.

There were several Buford homesteaders in town that day, all applying for the patent to their land. They acted as witnesses for each other. A patent was a government document proving legal ownership to the 160 acre homestead a person had filed on three years before and had lived upon for at least six months out of each year and done a stipulated amount of improvements on, during that time. It cost ten dollars to file on a homestead.

We all started for home together in the evening, a long line of horse-drawn vehicles. Just before dark, we camped for an hour to rest, feed, and water the horses at a creek a few miles east of an old landmark called Spruce Tree Corner. Mr. Nystrom made coffee over a camp fire and I remember him for seeing to it that I had some coffee too. After leaving the camp, I did not remember any more till Dad carried me into the house. It had been a long, tiring, but thrilling day for a small six-year-old boy like me.

The summer of 1911 was very wet. Bridges and culverts were washed out in many places which made it almost impossible to get to Leduc for several weeks. The food supply became very low among the settlers, so one day my uncle, Rudolph Jonson, and his oldest son Abner, decided to try to make a trip to Leduc. They made a cart affair using just the two hind wheels of a wagon with a good team of horses hitched to it. All went well until they reached a creek one half mile west of Leduc and found the bridge gone. An elderly lady stood there wondering how to get across. She could not speak Swedish or English. Uncle and Abner swam the horses across, cart and all, but they still had the lady standing on the other side. Uncle managed to make her understand that he was willing to help her across but it was very dangerous and they might drown. In return, she made him understand that if they did she would go to Heaven. So he and the horses made the crossing twice more, bringing her safely to the Leduc side. Although they wanted her to ride the rest of the way, she thanked them for their kindness and walked on. On the return journey, they were able to find a place to ford the creek and keep the groceries dry.

Once, my dad asked Mr. Sangster to bring a 100 lb. sack of flour from Leduc to his place, where Dad went to get it on horseback. He thought he would be able to tie the sack of flour onto the horse's back but in so doing, he frightened the animal and by the time it quieted down, half of the flour had been spilled. Mr. and Mrs. Sangster felt very sorry for my Dad, as flour was hard to come by in those days.

Much can be said in favor of the cooperative spirit among the pioneer settlers which made hardships easier to bear. Without it, many would have given up in despair before they even got started in a strange land

LAKE CENTRE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4643



Lake Centre School, Junior Grades 1 - 5. Senior Grades 6 - 9.

The Lake Centre School Division was registered in 1935. The school, situated on the SW 16-48-27-W4, was built during the summer of the same year by Stuart Olson carpenter who was assisted by a number of the local farmers. The school opened at Easter in 1936.

The first trustees were Warner Johnson, Gerald Britton and E.T. (Eddie) Monaghan. Eddie was Secretary-Treasurer.

In 1938 the school district was taken into the larger Clover Bar School Division No. 13 with offices in Edmonton when Mr. Joseph Halwa of Halicz was trustee. Following Mr. Halwa's term of office Mr. William Burgess of the Lake Centre School District was trustee and served a number of years until the County of Leduc No. 25 was organized with offices in Leduc.

There were fifty-two pupils in one room at one time, with grades one to nine being taught by Tory Westermark. To improve this situation, the then vacant Conjuring Creek School was moved in to provide a second room for the pupils in grades six to nine inclusive. By this time it was the year 1949.

In 1961 the school was centralized with the New Humble School District and the pupils are bussed there

Some of our local teachers were Tory Westermark, Mrs. E.T. (Bertha) Monaghan, Helen Erickson, Iona and Alice Anderson, Carl L. Stults, Tillie Erickson and Douglas Howard. Other teachers were Isabel Ferguson, Helen Long, Mrs. Sarah Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Kukawesky, Mrs. Edith Thorne, Mrs. Fenton, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Elliot, Ruth Wright, Mrs. Petterson, and Greta Anderson for a short time. Patricia Howard and Grace Rough assisted with correspondence courses for a few months until a teacher was found.

The teachers boarded at Warner Johnson's, E.J. Monaghan's ,Ben Forsberg's, Bertle Forsberg's, and William Burgess's. In 1951 a teacherage was moved in to provide accommodation for the teachers.



Tory Westermark and Ruth Wright teachers at Lake Centre School.



Front row — Left to Right — Jim Mundy; Terry Forsberg; Walter Oleksky; Jim Sorenson; Peter Franko; Buddy Melin; Leroy Larson; Bobby Johnson; Pete Someran; and Richard Melin.

Centre row — Left to Right — Carol Forsberg; Annie Franko; and Margaret Mundy.

Back row — Left to Right — Marion Melin; Betty Mundy; Alt Somerin; Leslie Rye; Alfred Mundy; Allen Sorenson; Jerry Larson; Raymond Sorenson and the teacher Mrs. Stephany Lukawesky.

Moving Conjuring Creek School House to Lake Centre.

FRANK LINDBERG FAMILY

By E. Forsberg

Frank and Alma Lindberg came from Mala, Sweden to Canada in 1911 with an infant son Sten, and settled in the Springdale district.

There, a daughter Lily was born in 1913. They then moved to Sedgewick where Stanley was born in 1915.

They resided temporarily in Edmonton and Calmar before coming to Buford about 1920 where they purchased a farm, the SW 31-48-28W4. Ray was born there in 1926. They remained there on the farm until they sold it to Lentz and purchased a home in Wetaskiwin for their retirement.

Frank passed away suddenly in 1950 at the age of 69. Mrs. Lindberg and Ray resided there until her passing at the age of 77 in 1965. Ray passed away in 1973 at the age of 47. Lily married Oscar Johanson and they are retired and living in Wetaskiwin.

Stanley married Adeline Hebner and resided in Edmonton at the time of his death in 1978.

CARL AND CLARA LINDGREN

by Effie Lindgren

Carl Lindgren (born 1859 in Norjo Vesterbotten, Sweden) and Clara Anderson (born 1864 in Budresk Vesterbotten, Sweden) were married in Kulm, North Dakota in 1889. They immigrated to Canada in 1899, settling in the Buford district where they resided until their deaths.

From this union, 8 children, 4 boys and 4 girls were born. Axel and Arthur passed away at an early age in

Kulm, North Dakota. Albin died at the age of 9 in Buford. Edna passed away at the age of 28 in 1937.

Ellen married Gust From. They had 5 children: Oliver, Edna (deceased), Elsie, Helge and Ingvall.

Alice is now Mrs. Osian Siller. The Sillers have 3 children: Norman (Ross), Lloyd and Verda.

Herbert married Effie Nystrom. They had 8 children: Von, June, Gilbert (deceased), Edna, Wendy, Reginald, Karen, and Robert. They resided in Glen Park (formerly Buford) on the old Lindgren farm until 1972, when Herbert sold the land, retired and moved to Calmar.

Esther, now Mrs. Otto Lindstrom, has one son, Larry.

For 16 years, Carl Lindgren was a mail carrier between Calmar and Buford. He experienced many hardships, as there were no roads, only trails through bush and swamps. He depended on his faithful old horse to pull the buggy in summer and the sleigh in winter. He not only delivered mail, but groceries, hardware, medicine or anything else on neighbour might wish to pass on to another on the mail route. His 'deliveries' might have included a dozen eggs, a small kitten or a bottle of 'Kuriko', a cure-all medicine for which Mr. Lindgren was an agent for many years.

In addition to his postal duties, Carl Lindgren was also a Municipal Counsellor in 1918 - 1919 and an Administrator of Estates. Carl bought his first car in 1918, a Ford, which at that time was considered to be very 'flashy'.

Mr. and Mrs. Lindgren were known for their hospitality; a welcome mat was always out for the many weary travellers. Passers-by would stop in for a free meal and lodging for the night or sometimes for months when they had nowhere else to go.



Water hoist on Carl Lindgren farm.



Steam Engine and breaking plow.



Lindgren car, 1918.



Effie Lindgren

Mrs. Lindgren was a mid-wife for many years and delivered scores of babies in the neighborhood. At age 79, she delivered her last baby, her granddaughter, June, in the old farmhouse.

Clara enjoyed exceptionally good health and had never been in a hospital until a month prior to her death.

Carl Lindgren passed away at the age of 87 in 1946, and Clara at age 83 in 1947.

THE JOHN MADER STORY

by Bertha Anderson Mader

John and Edith Mader with their son John Arthur (Jack) came to the Glen Park District in March 1942 from Coaldale, Alberta.

John's occupation was making cheese, having learned his trade in Bern, Switzerland. He had previously operated Cheese Factories in Dickeyville, Wisconsin, through Saskatchewan and Coaldale, Alberta, prior to his management of the Glen Park



Wedding Day, 1949 John & Bertha Mader. Attendents Irene Anderson (Bertha's daughter) and Jack Mader (John's son).

Cheese Factory. He held this position until December, 1946, after which he was appointed Provincial Cheese Inspector. His wife Edith Mader suffered from an asthmatic condition for many years, and in June of 1945 she passed away. We had been very good friends ever since their arrival in Glen Park.

John Mader moved to Edmonton to assume his new position in December of 1946 and the management of the Glen Park Cheese Factory was then taken over by his son Jack.

John Mader and I were married in 1949. We travelled together many times, throughout the province during his inspection tours and we attended many conventions. John retired in June of 1961 and on July 6th we left for Bern, Switzerland for a seven week delightful holiday.

John was a member of the Canadian Legion in Thorsby, Leduc and Edmonton. For 20 years he was a



Swiss Picnic John & Bertha Mader



Silver Wedding, Jan. 1974 John & Bertha Mader

very active member of the Strathcona Branch #150 and was presented with a Certificate of Merit in this organization. I received a life membership in the Ladies Auxiliary. Because of their untiring efforts on behalf of the Auxiliary, John and three other legionaires received an Honorary Life Member ship in this organization.

For some 15 years we were members of the Edmonton Swiss Society and for 5 years John served as

its president. I'm still an active member.

On January 15th, 1974 we celebrated our Silver Wedding Anniversary with open house to some 126 guests. We shall ever be grateful to our children for making all the wonderful arrangements and for their beautiful gift of a colored T.V.

John's hobbies were hunting and fishing and many delectable meals were enjoyed over an open fire in the wilderness.

John had been ailing for a few years and was hospitalized for several weeks, before passing away on May 27th, 1975. Since that time I sold our home and am residing in Edmonton.

Son Jack of Edmonton married Mary Chase of Regina in 1946. They have 2 sons, Leonard and

George.

Leonard married Robin Scott of Montreal in 1976 and they presently reside in Ottawa and George lives in Calgary.

MR. AND MRS. FLOYD MAXWELL

By Grace (Anderson) Maxwell

I was born in Rosalind, Minnesota and came to Buford, Alberta, as a baby with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. L.O. Anderson. My first teacher was Julia Ringvall, and I attended the first Kulm School, which was built on Dad's homestead. My recollections of those seven years of public schooling are:

1. I was the only girl who played baseball with the

boys.

2. In the winter time, during the noon hour, we all square danced until the floor boards caved in.

3. At times we also played "Fox and Geese".

4. In the summer time we enjoyed "Drop the handkerchief", "London Bridge is Falling Down", "Here we go Round the Mulberry Bush", "In and Out the Window", and "Post Office".

5. My dearest friends at school were Edith Dahl and Esther Helgren, and my dear friend from Calmar School was Julia Westlund. I have always been grateful to her for teaching me how to crochet.

6. Many Saturday nights would be spent horseback riding down the town line with Oscar Modin, Gust Evenson, brother Melvin, Mabel, Gladys and Vera Garbe, and Eric, Wilfred and Arvid Dixon.

7. How Melvin and I resented having to rock our younger sister and brothers to sleep. We would sit in our large kitchen and push the baby carriage between us the full length of the room with great umbrage.

8. When I was 14 years old, I baked bread for Mrs. Meldrum, the wife of our school teacher.

9. Once Edith Dahl, Esther Helgren and I hid in the bushes as Vernard Stubbs had threatened to give us a beating.

10. Twice a week I had the unpleasant task of setting the sponge for bread at 8 P.M. in the evening and Oh! how I begrudged the time away from my playmates.

11. How we would climb spruce trees looking for spruce gum, which tasted much better than any gum you can buy today. This gum was also excellent for healing cuts on the body.

My most pungent memories as a teenager are:

When I helped Melvin to rake some hay one day, my buttocks got pinched when he tripped the tines on the rake, and I can assure you I was black and blue for weeks.

How Mother and I milked 11 cows morning and night one whole summer. Every Monday morning at 8 A.M. I started to scrub clothes on a board and did finish until 4 P.M. Edith Helgren, also washed clothes at her home half a mile away, and we would see who could have the first tub of clothes on the line. In the summer time we spent many days picking wild berries, and nothing tasted better than a dish of strawberries or raspberries, smothered with sugar and thick cream. When I was 18 years old my

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cousin Ole Modin hired me to cook for 7 men whom he had employed to clear some land at Oscar Dixons.

How I enjoyed helping Dad to serve customers in our store and post office — eggs had to be candled, coffee had to be ground, dried fruit weighed by the pound, etc.

What fun we had at the barn dances dancing hambos, schottisches, polkas, square dances, French minuets, heel-and-toes, and circle. I recall one evening when we had a dance in our barn, sister Lilly was just a toddler and for some reason she would not go to sleep. Mother sat with her until almost midnight, but still her cries persisted. Finally in desperation, Mother went out to the barn and told Dad it was his turn to babysit. In practically no time, Dad returned to the barn announcing that she was fast asleep. We wondered what kind of magic spell he had cast over our baby sister. The next day we learned that he had given her some wine and in no time she was in dream land.

Dad had a tennis court at home and many happy hours were spent playing the game with Mel and Laura Meldrum.

We would go sleigh riding with blankets and foot warmers.

Edwin and I would play for dances in Ole Modin's hall. He played the violin and I chorded on the piano.

On other occasions, Dixon's orchestra would strike up the music for an old fashioned dance 'til the wee small hours of the morning. Those were the nights I remember watching the Northern Lights roll and unfold over head while the sleigh runners screeched and squeaked over the crusty snow.

I shall never forget the time I was a bit miffed with Mother, so after midnight that evening, I threw my clothes out of the upstairs window, Melvin started up the Model T Ford, picked up my clothes and drove Myrtle Hagen and I to Edmonton to look for a job. We

worked at the G.W.G. for two months and then as waitresses at the Senate Cafe. Our salary was \$7.00 a week and we paid Alice (Ingers) White, \$5.00 a week for room and board. After a few months Dad came and pleaded with me to return home to help mother. Everything was forgiven.

On April 2, 1925 Floyd Maxwell and I were married, and for the first year we rented the farm from Mr. Andrew Sund, my cousin. I shall never forget the harrowing experience I had while driving my sister Rosella and her friend, Eileen Erickson for a music lesson to Mrs. Eric Dickson's. We were on our way home when our horses, "King", and "Sam", decided to run away. We all jumped to safety and I was really worried for I was three months pregnant at the time. Luckily all went well.

Our first baby Ruyl was born that year. In 1926, we moved to the "Roll" place which was 3 miles east and a half mile north of Dad's store. For two years we struggled along just barely making a living. Our house was a log building with one bedroom, a living room, and a kitchen. During the winter the snow would drift in behind the dresser to a height of 4 feet. We milked 6 cows morning and night and the milk was strained through several thicknesses of cheese cloth into a milk can. One night when I was straining the milk, Floyd really irked me, so 'wham', 'bang', the foamy cheese cloth landed right across his face. He looked so funny my ire ended in hysterical laughter. What could he do but join me in the levity? Our milk was hauled to the Glen Park cheese factory at Wieting's every second day. On occasion I made butter from the cream and sold it to Mrs. Dave Dunbar to augment our income. The following year, we moved to Ole Nyberg's house just south of Dad's store. Floyd delivered meat for Mr. Nymberg's butcher shop and we had a boarder — John Osterberg.



Floyd & Grace Maxwells wedding reception, 1925

Ruyl Maxwell, as an Edmonton city constable was called to a location near 102 street and 104 ave. in April 1950 where a snake had been spotted. He shot it. The origin of the 52 inch poisonous rattle snake was never explained. The reptiles are only found in southern Alberta.



I will never forget how pleased we were to receive \$20.00 for painting the ceiling in the new Kulm school house.

In May, 1930 we purchased the furniture and contents of the "Northern Rooms" in Edmonton from Harold Oslund. The building was situated on the corner of 102nd St. and 103rd Ave. We rented this establishment for 10 years — renting out 8 rooms to transients and we had 5 boarders. We had no washing machine, so 16 sheets and pillow cases had to be scrubbed on the board every day by hand. As we were in a downtown location, our place was the headquarters for most of the people who came in from Glen Park. It was convenient for them to leave their purchases and parcels with us and to meet there. It also gave us an opportunity to keep in touch with our Glen Park friends.

Twin boys, Roy and Keith, were born March 8, 1930, but as they were 2 months premature, the doctor kept them in an incubator in a hospital for 2 months. At birth Keith weighed 31/4 lbs. and Roy weighed 31/2 lbs. Never will I forget the anxiety and the responsibility of trying to keep them alive after they were discharged from the hospital, as Roy weighed 5 pounds and Keith was only 2 pounds. They were too weak to be bathed in water, so olive oil was used for at least two months, to rub their small fragile bodies. They had to be fed every two hours night and day for six months. No one will ever know how tired we were. One night in particular when it was Floyd's turn to feed the twins, he got up when the alarm went off, and instead of putting the bottle of milk into the receptacle on the hot plate, he put in the alarm clock.

There is no doubt in my mind that these were the hardest 10 years of our lives. Not only did I have to devote many hours a day to our children but there seemed to be a never ending battle with human lice, bed bugs, and cockroaches, for we could not afford to turn away any roomers.

In 1941, how thrilled we were for the opportunity to move to a house on 106th St. and 102nd Ave. which we considered a much better location. Floyd got a job



Cache Creek in the spring of 1935 when it was flooding just east of the L.O. Anderson home.



Floyd Maxwells, 1944

with the Edmonton City Dairy for three years, and then for 7 years he hauled hay. Once again I had 5 rooms for renting, but as I did not have any boarders, I got a job assisting with the sale of stainless steel cookware for Norman Hunter. The first party was held at my sister's place, Mrs. Gust Modin's in Glen Park, and 13 sets were sold. What a bonanza!

I shall never forget the wonderful news we received in 1951. Dad leased the mineral rights on his farm to Miller Pyrch and Carlson Company for \$35,000.00, and through our parents' kindness and generosity, all the children received \$4,000.00 each. This windfall enabled Floyd and I to put a down payment on a house in the Strathearn district, where we now have a comfortable home where we are enjoying wonderful neighbors.

Floyd drove a truck for 18 years, working for the city and during that time he never had an accident, wheeling his large International truck through the main arteries of the city.

In conclusion I wish to say those were the "Good Old Days", when men and women worked together with their neighbors for the betterment of their communities which a few short years previously had been 'virgin' frontier. This was also the time when although everyone must have been extremely busy, they still took time out from their busy lives to enjoy the social events.

Floyd and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary at the Elk's Hall in Edmonton on April 5, 1975. Over 100 friends and relatives attended the reception, and there was dancing until midnight. Telegrams and certificates of best wishes were received from the following dignitaries:

Her Majesty the Queen
Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau
Premier Peter Lougheed
Lt. Governor Ralph Steinhauer
Gov. General and Madame Leger
The Right Honorable Robert Stanfield
Doug Roche, M.P.
C.K. French, M.L.A.
Julian Koziak, M.L.A.

Keith French of Hanna acted as Master of Ceremonies and Sister Lillian French proposed the toast. Dennis Arial of Camrose sang "The Anniversary Song".

Our eldest son Ruyl married Margaret Latimer, and they have three daughters, all married. He was on the police force for 10 years after which he started his own trucking company. Roy was a Nursing Orderly for close to 20 years, and is at present managing "The Pantry" in the Kingsway Garden Mall. Keith has worked with the Parks and Recreation Department of the city for 21 years and is at present on maintenance at the Kinsmen Field House.

We have 3 granddaughters, and 8 great grandchildren. Floyd and I have been members of the Scandia Vasa Lodge for 10 years, and have been members of the Strathearn United Church for 27 years. We both belong to a Senior Citizens Club, and keep very active bowling, playing whist, and socializing.

MR. & MRS. GUST MODIN

By Hilda (Anderson) Modin

I, Hilda (Anderson) Modin, was born in Olivia, Minnesota on April 10, 1897. In February of 1904, I came to the Buford District with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. L.O. Anderson. There were no roads to speak of; just trails in the wilderness. The country was almost solid brush with very little land under cultivation. As I was the first daughter, my daily chores were many and varied. I shall never forget the unpleasant experience I had when milking cows at nine years of age. There was a cow that was cross and came running at me and before I knew it, she took me on her horns and threw me right over her back. At 12 years of age, I did babysitting for Mrs. Leonard Sallstrom. In the evenings, I rode horseback for the cows. In the spring I had to do plowing with two horses and a walking plow.

One Saturday morning, while I was scrubbing the kitchen floor, my little sister Florence, who was just a toddler, had accidentally found a match, lit it, and threw it on the bed. When she saw the flames rising from the pillows, she hid under the bed and screamed. I rushed into the bedroom and seeing the flames,



When cows were used for ploughing, about 1905. Left to Right — L.O. Anderson, Ollie Modin, Eric Modin, Pete Modin and Anders Sjoden.

yelled, "FIRE". I grabbed the nearest thing at hand, which was my pail of dirty scrub water and quickly doused the fire, but, oh, my mother's clean white bedspread!

On April 11, 1911, Gust Modin, accompanied by his brother Ole, L.A. Pearson and Andrew Beck, arrived from Gagnef, Dalarne, Sweden, and were guests at our home until they were able to find employment. For the next four years, Gust worked on the railway between Carrot Creek and Tete Jaun Cache. On February 16, 1915, Gust and I were married and moved to Bruce, where we rented a farm. Gust worked out as a carpenter and plasterer for several years to augment our meagre farm income, while I looked after the cattle, pigs, horses and did the other outside chores.

By this time, two babies had arrived, so when I walked to bring the cows from the open range each evening, I had to carry the baby and hold the two-year-old by the hand.

Everything of course, had to be homemade, including socks, sweaters, and scarves. These were knit from wool which I had spun. Much of the clothing was sewn from flour sacks or remodelled from hand-me-downs. Gust made the children's shoes from the uppers of discarded boots.

The winter of 1919-1920 arrived in September and lasted until May. "The Hard Winter", as it was known, brought hardships for both man and beast. What we thought was an abundant supply of feed, ran out long before spring finally arrived. Carloads of feed were brought in by train and was distributed among the farmers in the district. Many times our ration was as little as two green feed bundles, so by spring, the cattle were eating the bark and branches from the trees.

The depression years were hard, as by this time our family had grown to six children and we still lived in our original 12' x 20' shack. Severe drought took its toll of our crops and what little we did produce was practically worthless. Our only means of transportation was a Bennett Wagon made from the chassis of an old car, equipped with a wagon tongue so it could be pulled by a team of horses. Once a week a trip would be made into town with about fifty dozen eggs which sold for 2¢ a dozen, and an eight gallon can of cream that brought \$2.50. Threshing was done by a 22 man

crew and a steam engine that made quick work of a field of stooks.

Our annual outing was to attend the Bruce Stampede, which had the distinction of being one of the first stampedes in the province of Alberta,

originating in 1914.

In 1936, we sold our farm at Bruce and moved back to the Buford district with our six children, livestock, and machinery. We purchased a quarter section of bush land and cleared an area large enough to build a house and other buildings using lumber sawn from logs taken from the building site. The house was ready for occupancy by the fall of 1937. Clearing of land continued, first by axe, which was very tedious, so in 1938, we had a brush cutter come in; one of the first in the district. He made quick work of the bush; but, oh, what a mess, as it was not piled! Eventually, after lots of hard work, we had several fields of growing grain.

War broke out and our two oldest sons, Willard and Floyd, joined the army. We were very lucky to have them both come home at war's end, unscathed. Our youngest son, George, helped us with the farming, which by now was all done by tractor and power machinery; the horses having gone into

oblivion.

In 1950, Gust made his first return to his homeland after an absence of 39 years and found that conditions were greatly improved.

Years passed by and our children were all married

and gone on their own.

In 1957, we sold the farm to our youngest daughter and her husband, Arne and Mildred Strautman, and moved a small house to the yard of our oldest daughter and her husband, Bert and Florence Pearson, where we retired.

In February of 1965, we celebrated our Golden Wedding anniversary with an open house and dance in the Glen Park Hall. A huge crowd of relatives, friends and well wishers were in attendance. Our children had composed a very appropriate song which they sang to us that evening. The words were as follows, sung to the tune of "Put On Your Old Grey Bonnett":

TO MOM & DAD

At the table here before us
Sit our parents, Hilda and Gus
Thinking of the days gone by
Of the hard times on the prairie
When they were newly married
And they raised their family
There wasn't any money, so it really wasn't funny
When they had six hungry kids to feed
Not a thing was selling, so we had to live on "velling"
But we grew up just the same
CHORUS:

Now their hard work is done Grandchildren twenty-one And four great-grandchildren, by the way But although we got the spanking We're the ones who do the thanking On their Golden Wedding Day Back in the year of '34 Prices never had been lower And everything was dry Beef wasn't worth a holler And a hog just brought two dollar 'Twas enough to make one cry

Gust Modin and Andy Sjoden felling trees in order to clear their land in 1938.



Boating on Conjuring Lake, 1919 Left to Right — Ed. Erickson, Wilfred Dixon, Grace Anderson, Annie Lundblad, Eric Dixon, Oscar Modin.



Gust Modin and Andy Sjoden with the trees they had chopped down, about 1938.



We drank coffee made from wheat and rhubarb was so sweet

Salt pork and pot barley were a treat
They were tough and they were hardy and they
brought us up quite tardy
In that good old fashioned way

(repeat chorus)

In June of the same year, Gust and I went on a six week charter flight to Sweden, which we enjoyed very much.

In the spring of 1967, we moved to our newly acquired home in Calmar.

Tragedy struck in the fall of 1968, when Gust had his first in a series of strokes which left him partially paralyzed. Although he was unable to walk, I nursed him at home for a year. He then became a patient in the Parkland Nursing Home in Leduc.

In 1974, I accompanied my daughter and son-in-law, the Pearsons, on another trip to Sweden.

Gust and I celebrated our Diamond Wedding anniversary in 1975, holding an open house in the Senior Citizens Center in Calmar. Gust was brought out in his wheel chair. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent visiting with relatives and friends.

December, 1973 brought another tragedy. Our son, Floyd, who was mayor and postmaster of Calmar at the time, also had a stroke which left him paralyzed. He passed away at his cottage at Pigeon Lake on June 20, 1976, at the age of 57. Three months later, his wife Peggy passed away, leaving four children. Gust passed away in the Leduc General Hospital on June 7, 1977 at the age of 84 years.

My surviving five children all live near by. They are: Willard and Evelyn Modin, Mulhurst; Bertil and Florence (Toots) Pearson, Leduc; George and Doris Modin, Glen Park; Arnold and Ruth Eklund, Leduc, and Mildred and Arne Strautman, Leduc. I also have 24 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

On my 80th birthday, April 10, 1977, my children held an open house surprise party for me at the Senior Citizen's Center in Calmar. It was a very nice day. My sister, Lillian French, composed a poem, the story of my life.

I still live alone in my home in Calmar. To occupy my time, I make patchwork quilts, as many as twenty a year, for the family and also for sale. I also have crocheted several plastic rugs which I have donated for bazaars.

At the time of this writing, I am contemplating moving into Planeview Manor in Leduc for the winter months.

ARTHUR AND JESSIE MUNDY

by Jessie Mundy

Arthur Mundy left Bristol, England in Aug. 1929, and at the age of 15 arrived in Edmonton on Sept. 1. He worked on a farm for James Ritchie of Strathcona for 6 weeks at \$10.00 a month. He also worked for J.T.A. Saunders of Bonnie Doon and Mr. Forster of Woodbend, Stony Plain.



First house than Arthur & Jessie Mundy lived in.

He then came south to Conjuring Creek where he worked at the Littlewood farm for 2 years and then for Anton Johnson of Buford for 1 year. Next he hauled milk for Walter Umbarger. The milk was picked up from the farmers with the milk wagon and a team of mules, and hauled to the old Weiting Cheese Factory, and later to the new Buford Cheese Factory. In 1936, for \$125, he bought the milk wagon and mules from Walter and was on his own. He moved to Louis Nasby's farm to be at the beginning of the route. Later he moved to Carl Stult's farm where, with Carl's help, he built a house, and continued the milk route after his marriage. He spent $13\frac{1}{2}$ years on the milk route.

He worked for councillors W.J. Rye, Fjallar Johnson, and Bill Karbonik, doing road work for M.D. #25 Leduc.

In 1938, on my parents' 25th wedding anniversary, Arthur married me, Jessie Seal and we lived in the small house he had built on the northwest shore of Wizard Lake.



Arthur Mundy & Jessie, 1937.



Arthur Mundy & Mules. Arthur Mundy with mules and milk wagon, 1940.

In Feb. 1944, Arthur was called for Army Service in the R.C.O.C. in Calgary Mewata Barracks and from there was sent to Barryfield, Kingston, Ontario. After 4 months of training he received a medical discharge and returned home.

That fall, with 4 small children, we moved across Wizard Lake to live on and rent the Grunstrom farm. With a few cows, pigs, chickens and turkeys we made a living at farming.

When Harold Jr. left the home farm, in 1948, we moved back across the lake and onto Dad's farm with our 6 children.

While we lived there the children went to Lake Centre School until the New Humble was opened in 1961. By this time all country children were picked up by bus. For high school they were bussed to Calmar. We raised and educated 10 children: 4 girls and 6 boys.

In 1949 the first oil well of the district was drilled on the farm. This was followed by 3 more in the next



The oil rig near the house catches fire. Pump house and stock tank in foreground.

few years, besides quite a number more on surrounding farms. The battery was set up on the southeast corner of the farm and the Texaco camp site on the south west corner. After this, living conditions began to improve. Better roads were built. Electricity and telephones came into the country.

For a few years Arthur did custom grinding one day a week. He also went net fishing in the winter. In 1960 he went to work for the County of Leduc, working in the building and repair of roads and doing various jobs in the county parks. He remained at this for about 10 years, or nearly 30 years in all working for the M.D. of Leduc and County of Leduc. After this he got a job as Commissionaire, first in Westaskiwin and then at the International Airport.

Our children are now grown and married with jobs and children of their own. James, our second son, has taken over ownership of the home farm. He and his wife Louise raise grain, hay, pigs and cows.

CARL AND SELMA NYSTROM

by Ellen Forsberg

Carl Ludwig and Selma Nystrom immigrated to Canada in 1902 from Forsval, Sweden with eight children. They homesteaded on SE 36-48-28 W4 in the Buford district, a predominantly Swedish settlement. Selma's parents, Johan August and Brita Anderson, were already living on section SE 20-47-28 W4, which was later sold to Victor Forsberg when the Anderssons returned to Sweden.

Ludwig was an expert craftsman at constructing log buildings. His primary tool was the axe, with which he helped many a neighbour build his home.

In 1905, Ludwig and Matt Olson bought the first threshing machinge in the district. The thresher was operated by a return flue steamer owned by Matt.

The Nystroms had 3 more children following their arrival. They lost 2 girls in the diphtheria epidemic of 1906. One son died 3 weeks after arriving in Buford.

They lived on the farm until 1933 when they sold their land to C.P. Champion and moved to Fisher Home by Pigeon Lake. Carl passed away in November of that year at the age of 70. Selma later married Israel Oberg of Meeting Creek where they lived for a number of years. After Israel passed away, Selma became a resident of a nursing home in Edmonton where she passed away in 1955 at the age of 84.

My parents, Carl August Nystrom and Syster Ronnholm were married in Bankhead, Alberta on April 17, 1912. Grandpa gave Mother 40 acres of land on the south west corner of his farm. Dad built a two-room, two-storey house there. Later, 4 more rooms were added as the family grew.

Earning a living on 40 acres of land was, to say the least, difficult. They had a few cows, some sheep and chickens to supplement their food supply. Carl often worked away from the farm to make ends meet.



Threshing Outfit & Crew



Threshing Crew, 1910 - 1914.
C.L. Nystrom, Mat Olson, Andrew
Lindberg, Eric Kvarnberg, Gust Forsberg,
Victor Flodin, Abner Jonson, Adolph
Lundblad, Rudolph Knull, and Lundblad Sr.

During the winter, he found work tie-hacking in British Columbia.

In 1920, Dad bought his first threshing machine which was operated by a stationary engine. The thresher required one man to act as a twine cutter and another to keep the straw away from the straw carrier. The grain was caught in bags and hauled in a wagon box to the granaries. In 1926 he bought a new Moody threshing machine complete with straw blower and twine cutter (what a luxury!). In 1921 he constructed his own shingle mill which was also operated by the stationary engine. He made shingles for his own immediate needs as well as those of his neighbours. The stationary engine was later replaced by a Fordson tractor which required 6 strong men and a team of horses to get it started in the mornings.

In 1924, Dad bought a quarter section NE 25-48-28-W4 from C.P.R., just across the road from the house.

One dry fall day in 1928 while stack threshing for one of the neighbours, the straw pile caught fire. The



Carl Nystrom tying floats and sinkers on a fishing net he has hung.

quick actions of Dad and his crew saved the threshing machine and tractor. However he received severe burns to his hands and face.

In 1928, Dad bought a one-ton Chevrolet truck, the first of its kind with four-speed transmission and four-wheel brakes. At about the same time he formed a partnership with John Osterberg and opened a service station in Buford. When the railroad came to Thorsby they moved there and set up a garage where Thorsby Motors now stands; a venture that proved unsuccessful, partly due to the Depression. Dad was left with all of the debts to pay. However, he didn't give up and continued trucking for many years.

Though its main purpose was to provide another source of income, the truck was used for pleasure as well. It was often seen carrying young people to ball tournaments, family picnics or to the beach at

Mulhurst.

Mother was kept very busy with a family of 9 children to feed and clothe. All the clothes were made from "hand-me-downs", flour sacks and only the odd piece of new material. Late into the night we could hear the whirr of her spinning wheel as she spun the carded wool into yarn. She was always busy knitting mittens, socks and thigh high stockings for the girls which protected our legs while walking to school in the knee-deep snow. Since there were no snow ploughs in those days, the drifts became hard enough to walk upon.

Lunches were carried in syrup or lard pails and, by the time we reached school, they were often frozen. Rows of lunch pails were stacked close to the pot-bellied stove at school in hopes that they would be thawed by noon.

In the "Hungry 30's" when there wasn't enough money to buy coffee, Mother would roast barley and

grind it to provide a good substitute.

Dad built an ice house with double walls filled with sawdust. During the winter, he cut huge blocks of ice from the frozen waters of Pigeon Lake, stacked them to one side in the ice house and covered them with sawdust. It kept our milk and cream fresh through the summer months.

Dad and his brother, Fred Algot, owned a sawmill and sawed lumber in various locations such as Mulhurst, Telfordville, Breton, Antross, and Lesser Slave Lake.

Carl and Syster Nystrom had 9 children.

The oldest Edward, or Eddy as he is known, was born on September 29, 1912. He married Violet Erickson on May 22, 1940. They have 3 sons: Allan, Neil and Glen. They now reside in Calmar.

Ellen, born January 30, 1915, was united in marriage to Hilbert Forsberg July 9, 1938. Hilbert and Ellen moved from the Glen Park area in 1945. They now live in the New Norway district and have 4 children: Wayne, Corrine, Dennis and Dale.

Edith, born April 3, 1917, married Manfred Oslund in November, 1937. They had 6 children: Inez. Carol, Rodger, Dianne, Linda and Garth.



C.L. Nystrom Silver Wedding, 1913 Left to Right — Lottie, Clara, Carl Signe, Nanny, Tillie, Mabel, Carl, Selma with Fred Algot on her lap.

Manfred passed away in August of 1968. Edith now lives in Edmonton with her son Garth.

Uno was born on February 23, 1919 and married Maye Sorenson on May 23, 1941. They had 6 children: Sharon (deceased), Bonnie, Carl (deceased), Grant, Lori and Una Maye. Maye passed away August 31, 1973. Uno still makes his home in Calmar.

Effie, born December 25, 1920, married Herbert Lindgren on October 7, 1940. They lived on the Lindgren farm until December of 1972 when they moved to Calmar. They had 8 children: Von, June, Edna, Gilbert (deceased), Wendy, Reginal, Karen and Robert.

Harvey, born July 22, 1922, served in the 1st Battalion of the Canadian Scottish Regiment. He died in action on June 10, 1944 at the age of 22 and lies in the Bretteville Sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery in France.

Verna was born on May 31, 1924 and married Rod Nichols on January 17, 1942. They reside on a farm in the Red Deer area. Rod and Verna had 5 children: Randall, Marjorie, Delores, Russel (deceased) and Sidney.

Bernice, born April 5, 1926 is now Mrs. John Larson of Leduc and has 2 daughters: Sandra and Tammy.

Nels, born May 4, 1929, was united in marriage to Audrey Smith on October 28, 1951 and has 2 daughters: Helen and Verna. They make their home in Fort Saskatchewan.

In 1960, Mother and Dad sold the farm to their grandson, Wayne Forsberg. They then built a nice little home in Calmar where they lived until 1967



Carl Nystrom family Bernice Larson, Eddy, Uno, Ellen Forsberg, Verna Nichols, Edith Oslund, Effie Lindgren and Nels.

when Mother passed away after a lingering illness. Dad died suddenly on January 10, 1974.
Christina Andersdotter married Jones Nystrom (deceased 1889) (deceased 1889)
child — Carl Fredrick married

Margareta Andersdotter (1837-1904) (1833-1904)

+child — Carl Ludwig Nystrom

+child — Carl Ludwig Nystrom Brita Ulrika Davidson married

Johan August Andersson

(born 1836) (born 1837)

+child — Selma Andersson

Carl Ludwig Nystrom married

Selma Andersson on Oct. 21, 1888

(1863-1933) (1871-1955)

children - Charlotta Aug. 23, 1889-

++Carl August Feb. 28, 1891-Jan. 10,

1974

Signe June 6, 1893-Alexa 1895-1906

Edla -1906

Clara Mar. 20, 1898-

Axel -1902

Nanny 1901-

Tillie Mar. 21, 1907-

Mabel Sept. 3, 1909-

Fred Algot Oct. 15, 1911-

Brita Kristina Nystrom Married

Gustof Westerlund

(1807-1883) (1801-1866)

child — Christina Sofia married Carl Fjellstrom

(1831-1908)

child — Anna Sofia

Anna Sofia Fjellstrom married

Jonas August Ronnholm

(1863-) (1867-

++child — Syster

Carl August Nystrom married

Syster Ronnholm on April 17, 1912

(Feb. 28, 1891-Jan. 10, 1974)

(May 23, 1894-Mar. 31, 1967)

ANDREW OLSON FAMILY

by Benny Olson

Andrew Olson came from Sweden in the year 1909. One brother Erik, followed later. Andrew married Carrie Anderson, who arrived in Canada from Sweden in 1900 with her parents and 3 brothers.

Andrew and Carrie started farming 3 miles north of Calmar, later selling this farm. They then purchased the NE 2-49-28-W4, later selling this farm to Nick



House constructed by Andrew Olson, 1927 - 28, still in use today.

Fedor. At this time they moved to Buford purchasing the SE 4-49-27-W4, farming, raising and educating their children Annie, William, Dora, and Benny. They lost 2 children in 1926, a boy Roy and a girl Edna.

Andrew had a new four-bedroom home built in 1927. It was constructed by Andrew Dixon who was considered a very good carpenter. All the lumber was hauled by horse and sleigh from the Sunnybrook and Warburg areas. The sand for cement, at a cost of \$6.00 to \$8.00 per thousand cubic feet, was hauled by horses from Mulhurst, and the gravel from the river. In 1940, Andrew purchased the former Andrew Carlson farm, NE 32-48-27-W4.

The farm that Andrew Olson finally stayed on was a very low water and brush quarter (formerly owned by the Buckle brothers, Bill and Leonard) on which he grubbed and dug ditches to drain the water. This was all done by hand and with horses. The house he built in 1926-27 was followed by a larger barn in 1928, followed by several other buildings, all in use today. In 1941, he bought a threshing machine which the boys ran for several years doing custom threshing.

The Olson children went to Kulm school, a tough three-mile walk as there were very poor roads in those days, with heavy snow in winter and flooding in the spring.

Andrew Olson was also very active in the construction of the Glen Park Hall. He hauled logs



PICTURE OF ANDREW OLSON FAMILY, 1928
Standing Left to Right — Benny, Andrew, Carrie, William. Sitting Left to
Right — Annie, Dora.

with horses from Pigeon Lake, donated lumber and many hours of labour with the boys for the construction of the hall.

Annie married Emil Olsen and they set up farming at Kavanagh, later selling there and buying the John Dahl farm at Glen Park. Dora married Albert Johnson and they set up farming on the Johnson home quarter in Glen Park. Both daughters now live in Edmonton.

William married Elnora Hansen and farmed the home place. He passed away suddenly in 1975. Later Benny married Violet Hambling and moved to the Carlson place. He now resides in Leduc.

Andrew and Carrie retired to Edmonton still owning the 2 farms, with the 2 boys renting them until 1952. Andrew bought and sold many houses in Edmonton until the passing of Carrie in 1959. Andrew lived alone until his passing in 1964 at the age of 84, leaving 2 daughters, and 2 sons, 12 grandchildren and 1 great grandson.

WILLIAM "BILL" OLSON FAMILY

by Elnora Olson

William Olson, son of the aforementioned Andrew and Carrie Olson, was better known as Bill. He was born in 1916, was raised and educated in the Glen Park district and farmed with his father.

In 1940, Bill attended National School in Los Angeles, California to receive his radio licence. A few years later, as television became a piece of furniture in the home, he took a course in television repair. This was a hobby in his home but later it became a business along with his farming. Bill enjoyed playing the violin and guitar in his spare time. He worked as a hired hand on several threshing crews for a dollar a day.

In the fall of 1942, Bill married Elnora Justine Hansen, born in Hanna, Alberta. We farmed and lived together with Andrew and Carrie Olson until the spring of 1943. Then we rented the farm from them for a number of years and they retired in Edmonton. We later purchased the farm from them.

It seemed the work was never done. In those days, neighbors helped each other more and there seemed to be more satisfaction and contentment. We worked



William "Bill" Olson Farm, 1962.



Olson boys getting ready to do fall work. Dale (top of combine), Roger (left), Terry (right).



Bill Olson pulling the threshing machine for the last time as it went into retirement.



Darlene Olson (centre) like any other farm girl loved animals (still does). The totem pole (background) was hand-carved and painted by Roger Olson.



Dale Olson Farm — example of modern equipment compared to his grandfather's days.

hard to improve the home place by planting trees, remodelling the house and erecting a few new buildings. Bill did his own electrical wiring and installed a water system in 1963.

Our income was very small but you could buy a lot more for the dollar then than you can today. We milked cows by hand and sold milk to the Glen Park cheese factory for quite a number of years until it was destroyed by fire. The milk was then taken to Thorsby cheese factory. We raised hogs and chickens. The eggs were only 9 cents a dozen. Today, in 1978, they are even as high as \$1.19 a dozen for Grade A Large. All the butchering, canning and butter-making was done at home.

During this time we raised 3 boys: Dale William, Roger Grant, Terrence Delbert, and 1 girl: Darlene Lois. The boys attended Kulm and Calmar schools. Darlene attended Humble for 1 year and took the remainder of her schooling in Calmar. When our 3 boys joined a baseball team, Bill and I enjoyed watching games every Sunday of the ball season, when it didn't rain. Visiting was entertainment. Neighbors, friends, and relatives used to visit then, but now people have television and no time.

Our oldest son, Dale, decided to help farm. We then sold the milk cows and bought a few Herefords and Dale started raising hogs. Dale and his dad farmed together, with Roger and Terry helping whenever possible, until his dad passed away suddenly in his home, Feb. 14, 1975. This was a great loss not only to his family but to the surrounding communities as Bill was widely known and well-respected.

Prior to Bill's death, our daughter Darlene married Eugene Kenneth Ambrock, in October 1972, and had 1 son, Chad Steven. At present, they have 2 sons, the other being Dean William. Also prior to Bill's passing, Roger married Virginia Nancy Helm of the Morrowdale district, in April, 1973. They now have a daughter, Candice Nancy. Both families have made their homes in the town of Calmar.

Dale, Terry and I remained farming the home place with the thoughts of one of the boys taking over. In June, 1976 Dale married Donna Deloris Woodhouse (nee McHargue), originally from Edmonton, but living in the Willow Creek District for a year. They have 3 children, Wayne John, Wendy Lee, and Darren Curtis. In the fall of 1977, Dale purchased the farm, being the third generation to farm the home place. This is the hope of any family, that the hard work is done to make it easier for the next generation. Dale and his family are living in Donna's house trailer, but are planning to move into the original house. They are grain farming, raising hogs, and have added Charolais cattle to the herd. Of course, things are a little easier with modern equipment but farming is still a gamble.

I have now made my home, with our youngest son Terry, in the town of Calmar.

Mrs. Elnora Olson passed away on October 31, 1978.

MR. AND MRS. ERIC OSTERBERG

By Lillian French

Eric Julius Osterberg was born in Malo, Sweden on December 18, 1869. His wife, Katherina (Karin) Ogren, was born in Arvidsjour, Sweden on January the 25th, 1865. They had two children, Ellen Johanna—born on September 26, 1895, and John—born in 1897. They arrived in the Scandinavian settlement known as "Buford", before the first world war. Their farm was a half mile north of L.O. Anderson's General store.

Mr. Osterberg was a very tall, strong man and his neighbors would often hear him say, "I'm as strong as a locomotive". Despite the work and worry which the years wrought, he spent many months away from home supplementing his meagre earnings by working for the C.N.R., helping to build a railroad to the city of Kamloops, B.C. When the time came to return to his home in Buford, he would invariably celebrate the occasion by bringing home two bottles of whiskey. He then would invite his neighbor, Israel Helgren to come and partake of his "Oh, be Joyful". After hours of indulgence, Mr. Helgren would raise his ire by asking Mr. Osterberg "How much money did you make while you were away?" To which Mr. Osterberg would reply, "I have enough money to knock your eyes out."

Mr. Osterberg was very talented with his violin, and during his busy life, he even managed to construct two violins. He was called upon to play at weddings and dances, which were held in the homes of his neighbors. His friends were ever amazed at how well he played, by sitting on a chair, holding the violin on his knees.

When he dressed up, he always wore a stiff "celluloid" collar. His life was not void of humorous incidents. One day while trying to ride his son's "Harley Davidson" motorcycle, Mr. Osterberg fell off by the home gate, and tried to stop the bike by grabbing the rear wheel. The motor bike back fired — and Oh!, "those skinned knuckles".

On another occasion, Mr. Osterberg and his wife had been to a party, and then were given a ride to what was known as Helgren's Corner. However, Mr. Osterberg was still in the partying mood. He asked his wife to wait for him while he made a quick call to his friend, Ole Nyberg, who lived ½ of a mile east. Well, she waited and waited until the wee small hours of the morning. When her husband finally returned to the corner, he found that she had gone home. He was terribly miffed by this and said to himself, "I will never forgive Karin for doing this."

Mrs. Osterberg was seen many times walking to Mr. Anderson's General Store, with her apron full of eggs — which she would sell, in exchange for groceries. She was a very kind, compassionate, and hard working woman. Son, John owned a model T Ford, which was his prized possession. He kept this car



Karin & Eric Osterberg with John & Ellen.

nice and shiny by painting it with his father's paint brush and black paint.

John married Lottie Erickson and they are now residing in Kelowna, B.C. Ellen Johanna married Ludwig Jones from Nelson, B.C. in 1919. They have 5 children: Ingvar Ludwig Nelson, Olga Laura Lewis, Hazel Sofia Proctor, Roy Arnold Nelson and Eric Arthur Nelson. In the hungry thirties, Mr. Nelson was well known for his "shake" shingles, even though they were not on the market until many years later. The Nelson family is now residing in Kelowna, B.C.

MRS. LOTTIE OSTERBERG

Story told by Lottie

I was born in Sweden in 1889, the oldest child of Ludwig and Selma Nystrom.

In 1902 my parents came to Canada and lived in the Calmar district with their seven children: me, Carl, Signe, Clara, Alexandra, Edna, and Axel. The latter three are now deceased.



Lottie & Johnny Osterberg, June 1976.

Later four more children were born: Nancy, Tillie, Mabel, and Algot.

We attended school at Kulm, being some of the first pupils to go to that school.

The years were hard but we were happy and as we grew up we all married. I married Fred Erickson in 1905. Fred had a ¼ secion of land in Wilton Park. Here my children Arnie, Pearl, Florence — who died

at four years of age — Mabel, Stanley, Dave, Ernest, Melvy, and Vernon were born. We all worked very hard to eke out a livelihood by milking cows, growing hay and grain for sheep and pigs. We had to go to Leduc which was approximately 20 miles of mud, water and snow in the winter for groceries and staples. There were no roads, only trails. We often had to walk if our horses were needed at home to do the farm work. I often ran the binder with horses so that Fred could do the stooking.

I recall the days when we stacked hay. My sister Signe and her husband Matt would bring a team of horses and with our team the four of us would stack hay with a bucking pole. Usually my nieces Eleanor and Hazel (Lorraine was not born yet) would come along with my children. They loved to ride bucking pole when it was empty. We would then go to their place and so this became a community effort.

A hard-working, happy time was in the summer. My sister Signe, a neighbor Mrs. Dickson, and I would take our woolen quilts to a stream in our pasture. With homemade soap we scrubbed our quilts with scrubbing brushes on the nice green grass and they certainly looked nice.

In 1931 I managed a restaurant in Thorsby where the NuWay Store is now located.

Arnie is still unmarried and lives in Thorsby.

Pearl, widowed, was Mrs. Joe Seidl and lives in Falun, Alberta.

Mabel is married to Albert Paul and lives in Kelowna, B.C.

Stanley is married to Elsie Frieman and lives in Edmonton.



Five generations, taken Oct. 22, 1977. Seated Left to Right — Albert, Great-Great Grandmother Lottie Osterberg holding baby Randy Dennis, Great Grandma Mabel. Standing — Grandpa Royce Paul & Mother Valerie.

Dave is married to Dorothy Petuh and lives in Thorsby.

Ernest is unmarried and lives in Thorsby.

Melvy (deceased 1975) was married to Alf Armstrong from Toronto.

Vernon is married to Helen Hallett and lives in Madden, Alberta.

My husband Fred passed away in 1944. I married Johnny Osterberg in 1955 and we are now living in Kelowna, B.C.

My hobbies are knitting, crocheting, and I am still an active member of the Senior Citizens' Club.

Mrs. Osterberg passed away in Kelowna, B.C. on Jan. 8, 1979.

MR. & MRS. BERT PEARSON

By Florence Modin Pearson

I, Florence Pearson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gust Modin, was born March 21, 1917 at the home of my grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. L.O. Anderson of Buford, mother having come there from Bruce, Alberta for my birth.

I received my schooling in a one room school of the semi-prairie, the East Bruce School, grades 1 to 8. My teacher from the time I started until I finished in grade 8, was John G. Noel. He was noted for having the best Christmas concerts for miles around. People came from near and far to see them.

As Bruce was a fairly new district, the roads weren't much more than prairie trails.

We lived three miles from the school the first few years after starting, so my two brothers and I rode our faithful old mare, Maude, to school as well as riding her to bring the cows from the range for milking.

When I was nine years of age we moved to within two miles of the school so from then on, we walked, after milking our allotted cows by hand. Washing clothes on the wash board and scrubbing wide board floors with a brush until they were shining white was also learned at a tender age.

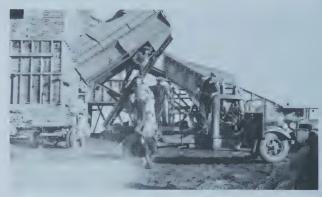
We moved even closer to school at the age of 12, before the younger children started school.

Being a teenager during the depression wasn't all roses, but we made our own recreation, and I do believe we had more fun than the young folks of today with all their cars and worldly goods. All the young folks of the district would meet at the school right after chores at least twice a week and Sunday afternoons mostly for softball and soccer and picnics, which also included the whole district. There were also school dances. The family car was not be used for foolishness such as dances, we were told, so many a time, with our dance shoes in our hands, a group of us would set out on "shank's mare" (as walking was called in those days), to a dance in town, which was five miles from our place. We would dance all night, walk home, and arrive just in time to change clothes and grab the milk

buckets, as old bossy was waiting to be milked. We were milking about 20 cows in those days.

Crops were dried out completely in Bruce for several years during the depression. In the fall of 1936, my parents and we six children moved to Buford.

Bert Pearson was born on November 3, 1908 in Gagnef, Dalarna, Sweden and immigrated to his Canadian destination of Bruce in April of 1929. Bert was an only child and was raised by his grandparents, as his mother became paralyzed when he was born. He was twelve years of age at the time of their passing, then went to live with an aunt and uncle, who owned a store, where he worked until coming to Canada.



Kent Coal Mine, 1933.

A few days after arriving, he got a job picking roots for a Swiss bachelor, a far cry from working in a store. Their only communication was sign language, as they could not understand each other. His hands blistered and bled. He began to wonder whatever brought him to this land of "Milk & Honey". He then got a job with an elevator crew, building elevators in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Next, he worked on the railroad and then in a gravel pit.

When the real depression hit, he and his partner rode the freights for a summer, after which they rented a farm for a year. The cost of threshing was as high per bushel as the grain was worth when it was sold. That venture was very unprofitable.

Bert Pearson found employment at the Penn & Kent Coal Mines for a couple of years, then went to Yellowknife for a year and a half and worked in a gold mine. Upon his return we were married on December 28, 1936.

We resided in Edmonton for a few months as he again worked at the Kent Coal Mine. In the summer, he returned to Yellowknife. I went home to help my folks on their newly acquired farm. At the end of 1939, he returned home to stay. In the early spring of 1940, we bought a quarter section of bush land from Andrew Carlson. There were about 18 acres broken but the roots were unpicked. We did get them picked and the land worked up and seeded in time to grow an abundant crop.

A clearing big enough for a yard had to be made. We then built a granary in which we lived that



Brushcutting, 1941.

summer. Our bedroom was a tent. Our house was built in time to move into by fall but only the kitchen and one bedroom were finished. The other rooms were done as time permitted.

Land had to be cleared for more fields so the brush cutters came in and slashed down many acres of bush. Then the real work began. Our day began at 3:00 A.M. Bert was out blasting stumps at the crack of dawn

In the fall of 1941, we harvested for neighbors; Bert on the tractor, I on the binder and our baby daughter, Jeanne, born on February 17, 1941, sleeping quite contentedly in a box on the tractor, paying no heed to the dust and the "putt, putt, putt" of the John Deere Model D.

Commencing farming had its downfall too. The first sow we bought, almost ready to farrow, had 14 stillborn piglets. Our three cows had only bull calves for three years and we were hailed out for three consecutive years. Milk sold at the cheese factory for 65 cents per 100 pounds.

In a few years time, after a lot of hard work, our quarter was all cleared and yielded abundantly.

On February 17, 1944, our second daughter was born, but God called her home at $2\frac{1}{2}$ months of age. Our third daughter, Ferne, was born in September of the following year.

We had raised pigs for a few years, then in 1947, we started dairying, which was a full time job. Bert hauled the milk to Calmar for pasteurization.

Our only son, Warren, was born in March of 1951, the time of the big snow storm and blizzard. Our children attended the Kulm school for their elementary schooling until its closing, then attended the New Humble Elementary. The higher grades were taken at Calmar High School, from which they graduated.

As time passed, the girls were married: Jeanne to Norman Westlund and made their home in Drayton Valley, and Ferne to Wilfred Forester of Thorsby, making their home in Leduc. To become an electrician was Warren's chosen vocation, so being alone, we sold our dairy herd and equipment in October, 1966. The following summer we took a six week vacation to Sweden. It had been 38 years since Bert had left his homeland. It was quite an enjoyable experience meeting all his relatives. We also toured Norway.



Five generations — 1959. Mr. & Mrs. L.O. Anderson, Gust & Hilda (Anderson) Modin, Bertel & Florence (Modin) Pearson, Norman & Jean (Pearson) Westlund and Baby Greg Westlund.

We did grain farming and in winter we raised pigs until January, 1974, when we sold our farm. In April we moved into our newly acquired home in Leduc, where we still reside.

By this time Warren had become an electrician and had married Laurie Williams. They also make their home in Leduc. We now have eight grandchildren.

In the summer of 1974, we took our second trip to Sweden. From there, we took a bus tour through Germany and Austria which we enjoyed very much.

For the past three summers, Bert has worked for the Agricultural Service Board. In the winter, we curl with the Senior Citizens and do some travelling. We have been to California, Arizona and Hawaii.

As this is the last summer that Bert plans to work, we hope to do some more travelling if our health continues and God be willing.

THE PETER POPIK FAMILY

by their son William Popik

Our great-grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Mike Popik and our grandparents John and Mary Popik, came to Alberta from Poland in 1901.

Mike Popik was born in Poland on Nov. 21, 1854. He raised five children: John, Daniel and Tecla with his first wife. After her death, he remarried and had two more children, Fred and Mary. John, the oldest son was born in Poland in 1876 and his wife Mary was born there in 1874. They had two children, Katharine and Peter. Katharine was born in Poland and Peter was born in the Rabbit Hill district in Alberta. When Katharine grew up she married Peter Mychalyshyn and they made thir home on a farm near Thorsby. Peter married Emma Dziuba in 1930. She had come from Poland in 1929.

Our great-grandparents and our grandparents first lived in the Rabbit Hill district near Edmonton. They worked at various jobs to support their families and on June 20, 1903 my grandfather John took a homestead, the NW 6-49-27 W4. Later his son Peter inherited the land and it is still occupied by the family.

Great-grandfather Mike Popik took his homestead on NW 14-49-28 W4.

The first house was built of logs he cut in the bush. The cracks between the logs were chinked with mud to keep the wind out. The roof was made from sod. Their first team of horses was bought in Calgary and driven home from there. All the work was done by horses and they were the only means of transportation. Their only source of light was a kerosene lamp in the house and a lantern to carry in their hands when they did the chores outside in the evening and early morning.

In the busy season farmers had to get up at 5 a.m. to feed their horses so they would be ready for field work. Land clearing was very hard and had to be done with an axe. Sometimes extra men were hired to help with the grubbing of trees and at harvest time; their pay was at the rate of 75¢ a day.

In the 1930s they sold cattle for \$5.00 a head and pigs at \$2.00 each. Out of this money they had to

support the family and pay off debts.

The first school Peter attended was Progress, then he transferred to Kulm which was 3 ½ miles away. His first teacher at Kulm was Mr. Jack Hughes. Almost everyone walked to school barefoot to save shoes. Peter recalled leaving his shoes, which were new, under a brush pile one morning while on his way to school. When he returned to pick them up that afternoon someone had burned the brush pile. This likely caused some excitement at home.

In the winter they cut posts and rails and sold them to get some extra money. Most of the time these were hauled to Leduc where there was a sale for them. They also hauled their grain and other produce there and on the way back picked up groceries and other supplies that were needed.

They usually attended church twice a month. The first Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of St. Nicholas was located on a parcel of land SW 34-48-1 W5 but it burned down and another one was built a few miles east on SW 13-49-28 W4. It was known as the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of St. John and the district was then known as Buford. When Thorsby came into existence the church was moved to Thorsby and located on the spot Walt's Car Wash now stands.

John Popik passed away in the Thorsby area in 1949. His wife Mary passed away a few years earlier, in 1945.

Katharine and her husband, Peter Mychalyshyn, moved onto his farm about 1 mile southeast of Thorsby and lived there from 1928 until their deaths. Peter died in 1939 and his wife died in 1952. They had 8 children: Joe, Olga, Natalie, Millie, Lucy, John, Mary and Steve.

Joe married Elsie Kuzio and they remained on his parent's farm and have two children, Caroline and Allen. In 1972 an oil well was drilled on it which still produces. The waste gas flame can be seen from Thorsby as it burns constantly at the well.

Olga Mychalshyn married Albert Rinas and they farmed north of Thorsby for many years, then sold out and now live in Leduc. Natalie married Joe Belozer and they live in Edmonton. Millie married Harry Osbak and they live in Edmonton. Lucy married John Mankow and they too live in Edmonton. John married Irene Gaydar; Mary married Russell Card, and Steve and his wife Elsie all live in Edmonton.



Peter and his wife Emma had three children: Stella, John and William (myself). Stella married John M. Kuzio the son of Mike and Mary Kuzio who lived west of Thorsby in the Dniester School district. They were married in 1949 and make their home on his farm south of the old Dniester school NW 19-48-1 W5. In 1976 they received the Farmstead Improvement Award given by the County of Leduc for the most improved farmstead in its 1976 program.

John and Stella were the only farm couple in the county to receive the award that year and cherish the plaque they were presented with, very much. They were invited to a steak supper in the Leduc Elk's Hall where movies were shown of the farms that had been inspected for the program. A few people made speeches and it came as a complete surprise to them when their name was announced as the farm couple chosen for the award.

They carry on a mixed farming operation and are by themselves now as their two children have grown up and left home. Their son Harvey was born in 1950 and graduated from Thorsby High School. He married Karen Pankewitz in 1971 and they reside in Edmonton where he is employed as a technician with Texaco Canada Inc. They have two children, Rhonda born in 1971 and Carey born in 1973. John and Stella's daughter Peggy was born in 1960 and graduated from Thorsby High School. She lives in Edmonton and is presently employed with the Alberta Health Care Commission.

John Popik, my older brother, married Natalka Chernish in 1975. She had come from the Ukraine to visit her uncle, Steve Chernish. I, William am unmarried. We live on the former John Popik farm east of Thorsby which has been in the Popik family for a long time.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION ON GLEN PARK

By Henry Ripper

I was born 8½ miles south of Calmar in 1905 and know all of the people whose names I have mentioned here.

The first settlers of the Buford district now known as Glen Park were: Helgrens, Davidsons, L.O. Andersons, John Dahl, Jonas Johnson, Rudolph Johnson, Oscar Jonson, John Mattson, Nystroms, Gust Jonson, Karl Nystrom, John Fedor, Apppleyards, August Carlson, Andrew Carlson, Dahlbecks, Mattsons (these were Finnish, the other Mattsons were Swedish), Harry Moore, Oscar Sorenson, Tenus Sorenson, William Rye, William Ripper, Fjaller Johnson, Ole Larson, Karl Lindgren, Chester Johnson, Charles Weiting, Herman Weiting, Dave Dunbar, William Boyce, Frank Bjur, Frank Lindberg, Wagner, Blonarowitz, Sam Miskinis, Alfred Ipsen, William Burgess, Laurence Burgess, Leonard Goye, Victor Forsberg, Victor Flodin, Sid Price, Ernest Howard, Jim Bennett, August Johnson, Anton Johnson, P. Shymansky, Dan and John Popik, Petersens, Jim Stubbs, William Buckell, Hedleys, Ted Buckell, Woitas, William Hudson. Paholkas, Peter Adamic, Oscar Erickson, Andrew Sund, Frank Lindberg, Axel Holm, Manuel Holm, Nick Rusnak Fred Glubish, Nick Karbonik, Oscar Dickson, Andrew Dickson, Rinas, Ankersteins, Babiaks, Sendziaks, Albert Huber, August Forsberg, Leonard Salstrom, S. Wickstrom, Henry Ripper, Maurice and Herbert Ripper, .

L.O. Anderson had the first store. First trucks in the area were owned by L.O. Anderson, Karl Nystrom (a Chev. 1 ton) and H. Ripper had a 1 ton Durant truck.

The first cars belonged to L.O. Anderson and Rudolph Johnson and were Model T. Fords. Melvin Anderson got a Chev. 1 ½ ton truck in 1929 and did general trucking.

Probably the first steel wheeled McCormick-Deering tractor, a 22-36 was owned by Dan Popik. His son Mike broke about 6000 acres of land with it.

The first rubber tired tractor brought into the district was bought by William Ripper. It was a Massey-Harris 1936 Pacemaker. In 1948 William Ripper bought a McCormick-Deering Diesel tractor from Matt Samardzic in Thorsby. It was the first diesel in the district.

The first cheese factory was operated by Weitings and it opened in 1912.

I am now retired and living in Wetaskiwin.

HAROLD AND ELLEN SEAL

by their daughter Jessie Mundy

In April of 1922 my father Harold Seal and his wife Ellen, and 3 small children: Harold Jr. age 7, I Jessie 6, and 2½-year-old Wilfred, left their home in Edmonton and moved to their new farm home on N.W. 22-48-27-W4. He was accompanied by his sister Gladys, his brother-in-law Bert Hitchcox and their 5-year-old daughter Maisie. The 2 men had come out the previous year to build their houses and make preparations for moving their families.

With 2 cows and a team of horses Dad started farming. All around there was nothing but bush which had to be gradually cleared through the years to make fields for grain. Chickens and turkeys were added to



Left to Right — Henry, Arthur, W. Ripper, Mrs. Ripper, Dick, Stanley and Maurice, 1913.



Stanley Ripper waiting for mail at L.O. Anderson's Store.



Jessie Seal (cousin), Maisie, Gladys & Herbert Hitchcox.

the farm animals, a good many of these falling prey to marauding covotes.

Though the frame house was built of rough lumber that had to be hauled in from long distances, the first cow barn was of double log construction packed with straw in between the logs. This was quite warm and comfortable in winter for milking cows.

Young children had to go to school, so one morning, Dad took Harold and me to the neighbor's, who showed us the short cut across country to the Kulm School. After that we were left to go on our own with a horse and a cutter which Dad had made for us, in winter and a buggy in summer, or sometimes on horseback. Many times we preferred to walk the $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Sometimes during the spring floods, travel by any means was difficult, with the water rushing across the roads and even the short cut was washed out. In winter we had to contend with snow drifts, often upsetting the cutter.

The road on the north-west corner of the farm was all muskeg and during wet seasons, horses could not get through, so the neighbors had to use a trail through the farm, until many years later when the road was built up.

Among the buildings that were gradually added was a large log construction which was divided, with the chickens at one end and a blacksmith's shop at the other. Dad's profession of blacksmithing was a great asset on the farm for himself and neighbors from near and far, who brought their broken machinery for repairs or their horses to be shod.

We always had our entertainment, with picnics or a day at the lake in summer, whist drives, dances and concerts in winter. Then there was skating, with everyone from miles around gathering on Bucking Horse Lake where we had cleared snow from the ice.

One morning when I was about 8, Mother sent me upstairs on an errand. I noticed that the tin stove pipes from the upper floor, right through the roof above were all red hot, so I called to mother who immediately threw salt into the fire box of the stove and saved a catastrophe. Of course the pipes were soon replaced by bricks.

Dad decided to go into hog raising, and produced grain for this purpose. This required grinding the grain

for feed, so he finally purchased a grinder and went into commercial grinding. By this time Harold was old enough to help with this as well as chores and field work.

In 1946 Dad and Mom left the farm and went to Edmonton, where they lived for a number of years before retiring to Barrhead. They are now 93 years old and in the Barrhead Nursing Home.



The first tractor in front of the unfinished machine shed, 1936.



The first frame barn built on the Seal farm, 1937.



The first Seal truck, a Fargo, with Mr. & Mrs. Seal and grandson Alfred,

Harold Jr. ran the farm for a couple of years, after which he worked for a number of years at various places and occupations. Winters usually found him at some lake, fishing. He finally went to Edson where he was married and had 2 infant daughters. Here he was killed by an explosion in a garage in 1958.

Wilfred never took much interest in farm work. He worked for awhile in a Calmar garage where he learned mechanics. With the outbreak of war he joined the Air Force and went overseas in 1944. On his return he worked for a few years in Edmonton and then moved to Barrhead where he still has the Barrhead Machine and Welding Ltd.

THE STEVE AND ANNA SEKORA STORY

by Anna (Ostatchuk) Sekora

I, Anna, second youngest daughter of Harry and Maria Ostapchuk, was born in 1920. I attended Dniester School, (1½ mile walk) where my teacher Mr. Lloyd Fox, his wife, and their daughter Jackie lived upstairs in the schoolhouse. Before I could get ready and go to school, breakfast had to be made for the whole family and the cows had to be milked. I was kept busy at all times since my mother was ill. School was all work with very little time to play. One day, some of my school friends and I decided to have some fun during recess and tried dancing in the hallway of the school. Mr. Fox, our teacher, came quietly from behind and caught us in "the act". We were all ordered into our seats and for punishment we had to stay in after school. Mr. Fox was a good but very strict teacher. However we did manage to sneak some dancing practises in behind his back. When school was out for the day, my friend Effie Mudry and I would hurry to get our coats on and run out of the school to try and catch a ride home with Johnny Chrunik, who drove a horse and cutter. But he was pretty fast at his get-away and did not like to pick up lady "hitch-hikers".

Years went by fast with school and helping on my parent's farm. When I left school, I stayed home for awhile until my sister Nellie was able to take my place at home.

In 1936, I went to work for Pete and Millie Workun and family in Calmar. My wages then amounted to about \$12.00 a month. I found it a real treat to be away from home and have a little extra money of my own to buy a pair of nylon stockings (25) cents a pair at that time). During this time, I met my husband Steve Sekora of Calmar. Steve and I were married on Aug. 4, 1938 and made our home on Steve's parent's farm, (Alex and Maria Sekora's place) SE 27-48-27 W4, which is now the Wizard Lake area. Steve and I took up mixed farming.

Since the roads were not gravelled, they became impassable on many occasions. On Mar. 8, 1951, Steve, I, and our son Myron were caught in a snow storm while coming home. We had to abandon our car at the end of our long driveway and walk the rest of

the way home. The drifts became 7 feet high and the car invisible. Two weeks later, Steve shovelled a path and uncovered the car.

On Feb. 25, 1952 the Texaco Oil Co. began to drill for oil around our area. The one on our farm was the second oil well and is now called Texaco CPRA1 oil well Wizard Lake. We are very fortunate that this well came in, since we also gained good gravel roads which were done mostly by the Texaco Oil Co. crew.



Second oil well drilled in Wizard Lake area, on the farm of Steve and Anne Sekora, Feb. 25, 1952. S.E. 4-27-48-27 W4.



Oil Derrick being put up, 1953, on Steve Sekora farm, 250 ft. from the

A very interesting and important part of my life was my hobby of designing and decorating Ukrainian Easter eggs. I usually found this to be a good pastime throughout the winter months. I was asked to several clubs and homes where I taught other ladies this fine art. One cold, winter day I drove out to Mary and Joe Coles at Millet where many women gathered to see my demonstration of waxing and painting the eggs. It was fun even if it was cold outside. With this hobby, I had visitors come to my house from near and far. Some came to buy the "finished" egg, while others came to learn how to decorate them. In 1960 I gave up this hobby and joined my husband with his antique collection. We now have a building full of memories to



The Sekora antique collection.



Steve and Anne Sekora on 25th Anniversary, Aug. 4, 1963.



Sekora Family, 1974 Steve, Annie, Elaine, Myron. Front row: Allan Sekora, niece Kimberley Sech, Patricia Sekora.

look back on. We welcome visitors who are interested in our hobby to come and see the old pieces and different antiques. We've had visitors from our surrounding district and from as far away as Saskatchewan and Winnipeg who come to admire the collector's items. Besides our antiques, I find great satisfaction and much enjoyment in tending to my many plants and flower gardens.

Our son Myron married Elaine Manchak on Oct. 29, 1965. They own an acreage 8 ½ miles south of Calmar. Their 2 children, Allan and Patricia, both attend Humble School. One of their pastimes is taking Ukrainian dance lessons. On July 2, 1977, after completing their first year of lessons, Allan, Patricia, and June Sych entered the Vegreville Ukrainian Festival and won third prize in the Ukrainian dancing competition (10-12 age category). In 1978 Patricia was one of the dancers in an "all girl group" which won second prize at the competitions.

Myron is employed with Flint Construction and Elaine is secretary of the Humble School. The family is presently enjoying their newly purchased home which they had moved onto their land.

THE HENRY SHYMANSKY STORY

by Antose Shymansky

Henry was born and raised in the Glen Park district on NE 6-49-27-W4. He went to Kulm School, and as young man worked out a lot — stooking and threshing. Later, he and his brother John bought land south of Thorsby. Together they cleared land and put up some buildings.

During the war years, Henry went to work in the coal mines at Mercoal in the foothills of Alberta.

In 1945, Henry and I (Antrose (Ann) Zukausk) were married and for the next few years, moved



Mike Lyka and Henry Shymansky about 1935.

around a lot. We worked on a dairy farm one winter, then moved to the city, where Darlene our first daughter was born. Henry worked as a carpenter, and went up north to Fort Smith, but due to an appendicitis attack was flown back for surgery. After that we moved back to the farm (SE 1-48-1-W5) where we built a small house. The following year another daughter (Patricia) was born. At the end of that year, we sold the farm, had an auction sale, bought our first car, and moved to Carbondale, a mining town north of Edmonton. There we lived in a company house, while Henry worked in the mine, for the next year and a half.

Being a farm boy, Henry had a yearning to get back to the farm. We rented a farm west of Millet for a year. In 1951, we moved to the home place, taking over the farm from his mother who had been widowed. It was a bad year; winter set in early and some of the crops weren't taken off until the following spring. Henry still worked out between seasons to supplement the income.

Then Debbie, daughter number 3, arrived, and we needed a new house badly. We had all kinds of volunteer help to pour the basement and put up the framework. We managed to finish a couple of rooms in the basement, and moved in just before Christmas, which made the whole family very happy.

Over the years we established a small dairy herd, with the milk going to the Thorsby Cheese Factory. Things were going along pretty well now. We were active members in the community and the church. All

of our girls attended Calmar School.

In June of 1974, Henry passed away after a short illness. With the help of my family, I tried to carry on, but dispersed of the dairy herd and went into beef instead. After a couple of years of that venture, I gave up farming altogether.

In Nov. of 1977 I moved to Leduc, where I am

now working.

The girls are all married now: Darlene and Wayne Brewster have four children, (Christine, Tracy, Jason and Shayne) and live on the home place. They are both working. Patricia (Mrs. LaSalle) lives in Vancouver with her two children, Colette and Ryan. Debbie and Dave Warnock and their daughter Laura live in Leduc, where Dave is employed.

PETER AND MARY SHYMANSKI (SZUMANSKI)

by Helen Tancowny

Peter Shymanski was born in 1875, in Europe. He immigrated to Canada in 1901, from Lazu, Austria, landing in Halifax. Peter's possessions consisted of the clothes he was wearing and one change of clothes and five dollars. Upon arrival he met with some friends and they proceeded to the Calmar area.

Peter worked on the railway until he took a homestead on Jan. 20, 1903, NE 6-49-27 W4 in the

Buford area.

On Feb. 10, 1903, Peter married Mary Dobko, daughter of Jacob and Annie Dobko who farmed at Rabbit Hill. Mary was born in 1885 in Europe and



The Peter Shymansky family Back row: Mary Shymansky, Mike, Henry, Bill, Alex, John and Steve Shymansky. Front row: Millie Green, Rose Wagar, Helen Tancowney and Paul. Annie and Archie Yaremko are missing.

immigrated to Canada (to the Rabbit Hill area) with her parents in 1895. After their marriage, Peter worked in the coal mines at Rabbit Hill in the winter and cleared land in the summer. He did this for several years until he had enough land cleared and enough tools to work with.

Clearing the land was done by hand with an axe. Horses, if they had them, were used to pull away the chopped trees and pull the walking plows to break the soil. They were able to clear approximately five acres of land a year. The seeding was also done by hand. Wheat, oats and barley were the first crops seeded.

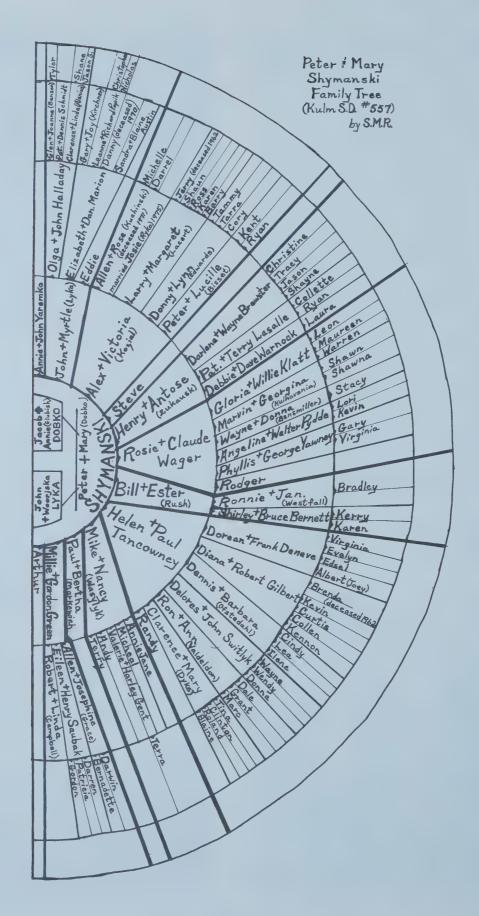
The yield was 30-40 bushels per acre.

From 1916-1920, farmers were faced with wet years that took tolls on the crops. Since their only income was from the sale of grain, trading of butter and eggs for salt and sugar was very common. Wheat was ground for flour and wheat and barley were also roasted then ground for coffee. Coal-oil was 35¢ a gallon and would last a week, eggs ranged from 5 - 10¢ a dozen, and overall pants were approx. \$1. a pair. All their vegetables were grown and stored in the root cellar for winter. Meat was scarce, so rabbit stew or prairie chicken was a common dish. Pork (when they had it) was salted and packed in a barrel.

Harvesting was a lengthy season. They started in August and went until Christmas and covered an area from Rabbit Hill to Buford. Threshing was done as team work. The first threshers didn't have scales, so



Alex and Henry plowing with a breaking plow.



the grain was measured in bags. The man who owned the machine was usually the bagger. Later scales were put on the machines and wagon boxes were used to haul the grain. Grain was hauled to Leduc until 1929, when the railway went past Buford. The cost of custom threshing was 3-4¢ per bushel, and a man's wage was \$1.50 for a long day. Meals and lodging were usually supplied by the employer. Vandalism being the major concern, the owner stayed and slept by the machine.

By 1925, Peter had over 25 acres cleared, and also had purchased section 7 in the Buford area. In 1927, things picked up - wheat was \$1.38 a bushel (now #3 red \$2.49), oats 80¢ (now #1 feed 93¢), barley 95¢ (now #1 feed \$1.40). In Dec. 1930, grain prices dropped from \$1.38 a bushel for wheat to 16¢ a bushel, and of course this a bumper crop year. Things were pretty grim for several years. In spite of it all, Peter still managed to purchase section 31 in the Wilton Park area, and the grain prices started to climb.

Their entertainment consisted of card playing and reminiscing with friends. Weddings were big events, with approximately two hundred and fifty friends, neighbours, and relatives coming from far and wide. The receptions were held in the homes, with a barn dance following. Dan Babiak supplied the music for these dances. Helen, Henry, Bill and Millie had their weddings in this fashion. Their wedding presents were items such as candy dishes, tablecloths, pillow cases, the odd pot or roaster and several ornaments.

Peter and Mary purchased their first radio in 1932, which ran on a 2-volt battery. A licence costing \$3.00 per year was required for this radio. If caught without a licence the fine was \$20, and the radio was confiscated.

Peter and Mary were very active members in the church, assisting in the construction of various churches.

Several years after Jacob Dobko's death, Annie moved to the farm of Peter and Mary and lived there till her passing in 1938. On Feb. 10, 1949, Peter passed away leaving Mary and her sons to tend the farm. In 1954, Mary moved to Thorsby leaving Henry to tend the farm. Mary lived in Thorsby until her passing on July 22, 1976, at the age of 92 years.

Peter and Mary's children and where they live

Residence

today: Name

Born

Nov. 20, 1904	Edmonton
April 14, 1907	Thorsby
July 1908	(deceased at 3 months)
Nov. 2, 1910	Thorsby
Jan. 1, 1912	
Sept. 1, 1915	(deceased June 29, 1974)
Dec. 5, 1916	Wetaskiwin
Dec. 29, 1917	Calgary
July 14, 1919	Thorsby
Sept. 29, 1920	Warburg
May 29, 1922	Kamloops, B.C.
Oct. 7, 1923	Thorsby
May 21, 1927	Vancouver, B.C.
	April 14, 1907 July 1908 Nov. 2, 1910 Jan. 1, 1912 Sept. 1, 1915 Dec. 5, 1916 Dec. 29, 1917 July 14, 1919 Sept. 29, 1920 May 29, 1922 Oct. 7, 1923

THE ED SORENSON FAMILY

By Charlotte Sorenson

Edward Sorenson was born and grew up in the Glen Park district on SW 28-48-27-W4. He was the eighth son of Mr. and Mrs. Tenus Sorenson.

Charlotte was born in the Glen Park area and raised on S.E. 27-48-27-W4, the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ivar Hoyem. Later on that farm was sold and another one purchased in the same district (NE 27-48-27-W4).

Edward and Charlotte both attended Kulm School. Ed's first teacher was Ina Fors (Mrs. Melvin Anderson) and others were Margaret Paul, Amy Forester and Jack Hughes. Charlotte's first teacher was Margaret Paul and then Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hughes.

In the way of entertainment at school, we played softball, basketball and hockey. I remember when the Glen Park softball team played against the Edmonton Grads (World Champion basketball team), but we didn't do too well, as they were certainly good athletes. During the winter months, there was skating and hockey and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hughes taught various dances, the Highland fling, Irish lilt, waltz, quadrille; and entered a group of dancers in the musical festival in Wetaskiwin. The Christmas Concert was an annual event. The Sorenson family had a natural talent for music; they all played an instrument and sang. They had their own orchestra. Ed played his guitar for \$1.00 a night.

Ed helped brush the road allowance south of his dad's place to Wizard Lake to get it ready for grading. Arthur Pahl ran the grader and 2 brothers, Eric and Nels Anderson, ran the steam engine. Ed brushed other road allowances in the district. He was only about 15 at the time.

In the fall of the year Ed and his older brother would take a job harvesting in the eastern part of the province, stooking grain bundles and then driving a team of horses, hauling the bundles to the threshing machine. The wages were \$2.50 a day.

I worked as a hired helper for a neighbor, getting \$15.00 a month.

In 1936 Ed started to work at the local cheese factory under the management of Alex Kerr and later on, Bill Mitchell. The wages were \$2.50 a day and they worked long hours, no 8-hour day then. By the fall of 1937 he had enough money to take a trip to Florida to visit his brother which cost \$77.00 return on the train.

In 1939 we were married and our wedding gifts included a wash tub, wash board, boiler, sad-irons, waffle iron, cast iron skillets, dish pan, dishes, towels, sheets, and kerosene lamp. Wash day was a big day, carrying out water in pails from the well to fill the boiler and heating it on the coal and wood stove. All the clothes were washed on the scrub board, with the water wrung out by hand. We boiled all of our towels and sheets, adding some lye to make them white. Later on we got a washing machine with a wringer, operated

by a gasoline engine. Ironing was a big chore — heating our sad-irons on the top of the coal and wood stove, so it was a great day to get a gas iron.

In 1940 Ed was transferred to Ryley and employed in making cheese and powdered milk. Our first son Ray W. was born on Oct. 23, 1940 at the Thorsby Hospital (on the Burgess farm) with Dr. Hankin attending.

We spent a number of years in Ryley during the war as Ed was frozen in the job and was needed in an essential industry.

On Feb. 9, 1944 our second son Jim was born in an Edmonton hospital. Due to Ed's poor health we returned to Glen Park in 1946 and purchased north half of SE 19-48-27-W4. Ed drove a truck for awhile for the Woodland Dairy delivering milk to the cheese factory and went into farming and clearing the land. There was no electric power than. For light we had a Coleman kerosene lamp. A few farmers had their own power plant.

Most of our vegetables, fruit and berries were canned in jars. I also sewed for my children.

Then in 1947 the oil boom came to our area. Oil wells were drilled all through the Calmar, Leduc, and Devon districts, so in 1949 Ed decided to take a job on the oil rigs. First he worked as a steam engineer on a steam powered rig at Devon, later changing to another company and working as a motor man, then as a driller, for various companies for a number of years until he was injured and quit working on the oil rigs.

On April 15, 1951 Louise, our daughter, was born.

A year or more passed by, then Ed bought a truck and did livestock hauling, etc., and went into commercial fishing at Pigeon, Wabamun and other lakes, buying for Inland Fisheries. The boys and I did the daily chores, milking cows, etc., while Ed was gone.

Our children attended a 2-room school at Lake Centre, walking a distance of 3 miles and sometimes riding their bicycles. Later on a bus route was started



July, 1978. Ed Sorenson Family. Left to Right — Back row: Brian, Louise, Ed, Charlotte, Jim, Delores, Sharon and Ray. Front row: Candice, Curtis, Cory, Glenn, Kimberley and Sherene.



Feb. 1978 in Hawaii, deep sea fishing. Ray Sorenson and 314 lb.



Ed Sorenson measuring snow drift, 1974.

and Ray and Jim went to Calmar High School. Louise went to New Humble Centre and then to Calmar High School.

Some years later Ed worked for the Thorsby Auction Mart and a livestock firm in Edmonton. He operated a livestock buying station at Ellerslie for Alberta Livestock Co-op for a number of years and to this day is in the livestock business.



Ed and Jim Sorenson milking, 1964.

We have 3 children. Raymond (Ray) Wilbert of Calmar married Sharon Phillips on March 4, 1964. They have 2 daughters, Sherene Lisa and Kimberley Ray.

James (Jim) Edward of Ft. McMurray married Delores Olson on July 25, 1964. They have 2 sons, Glen Wade and Cory Kendall.

(Charlotte) Louise of High Prairie married Brian Ross on March 28, 1969. They have 1 daughter and 1 son, Candice Michelle and Curtis Wayne.

HARLOW AND EDITH SORENSON

by Harlow Sorenson

As a boy I lived on a farm with my parents, 3 sisters and 9 brothers. I went to Kulm School. At one time I stayed with my older sister Ruth, Mrs. Clarence Eklund, and went to school from their home. I helped with the evening chores, getting wood for the stoves and pumping water for the stock.

During that time my brother-in-law Clarence, bought a carpenter's saw for me as a gift. One evening I bent it around and I could hear musical notes come from it. It was then that I started to play different tunes on it. One day just before Christmas I had a surprise for my teacher, Mrs. Ester Hughes. I played "Jingle Bells" for her and my schoomates. My brothers and sisters were all musical and could play instruments. We had our own orchestra for a few years and played for many different dances.



Harlow and Edith Sorenson wedding June 9, 1941.

In 1940 I met my future wife Edith Ockert. She was working for Gus Johnson in the Glen Park district, earning \$10.00 per month. We were married June 9, 1941 and moved to a farm at Wizard Lake. In the fall of 1946 we went to Canmore, Alberta where a job in the company store was awaiting me, but when we got there the job was gone. So I went to work for a man unloading 2 carloads of coal a day with a big scoop.

After about 2 months I got a job working in the coal mine situated under the Three Sisters Mountains at Canmore. That was quite an experience which I'll not forget. To get into the mine we had to go down 300 feet on a slope and then 2 miles towards the centre of the mountain. There was a large compressor to pump air into the mine. It was used to run small cars from station to station by compressed air. These cars would haul the men to where they had to go to work and bring out the coal. There were 3 shifts a day so there were probably about 300 men working at the mine. It just wasn't the kind of work I thought I would like to do so we came back to the farm at Wizard Lake.

Then in 1949 we went to work in Ponoka. I worked as a night clerk and my wife Edith worked as a

waitress at the Royal Hotel Cafe. My employer Mr. Bill Stelmack heard that I could play the saw so he wanted to hear me play it. After I played for him, he went down to the hall and entered my name as a contestant on the "Search for Talent" show. In a few weeks I was called to appear on stage and play my saw. To my surprise I was awarded first prize. Then I was given the chance to appear in the semi-finals and the finals. I was awarded third prize for Northern Alberta.



Harlow Sorenson playing saw.

In the fall of 1950 Edith and I went to work in Edmonton. I worked for Price and Andrews while Edith worked at Northwest Industries for the C.N.I.B.

Ever since I was a boy, I'd had an interest in flying. If I saw a plane fly overhead, I wished that some day I could fly one and fly it across the ocean. So when we moved to Edmonton I did go for a few plane rides and in the fall of 1959 I took up flying and got my pilot's license. In July 1969 I bought my first 150 Cessna plane. It was a 1962 model. Then I bought another 150 Cessna and also an Aronka Chief. I really enjoyed flying my airplane and giving plane rides to friends and relatives.



Harlow's last airplane.



Sorenson home on Wizard Lake,

In the fall of 1959 I also went to work for Nix Marine where I worked on small engines, lawn mowers, and outboard motors, also on washers and dryers. I received 2 diplomas for small engines.

In 1968 we bought a Laundro-Mat in Leduc. Then we sold our home in Edmonton and bought one in Leduc. After having the Laundro-Mat for a number of years we sold it and our home in Leduc and moved back to the farm at Wizard Lake. Edith has always worked. In Edmonton she also worked in Eaton's Department Store for some time. While we lived in Leduc, she was a saleslady in Fran's Fashions and presently manages a ladies' ready to wear store in Mill Woods.

We enjoy living at the lake with so many birds and animals around us, a true picture of nature.

THE LYLE SORENSON FAMILY

By Marie Sorenson

Lyle is the third son of Tenus and Mary Sorenson. He was three years old when they came to Canada from Indiana, U.S.A. Lyle went to the Kulm school, at that time in the Buford district, and now known as Glen Park. There were no good roads or school buses in those days, just trails through the bush and around water ponds. He took his grade 8 and passed it, but in those times country pupils had to go to Leduc to write their exams. At that time grade 8 was considered a good education.

His sole ambition was to be a doctor or a steam engineer but neither was possible as money was hard to come by when there were thirteen in the family to clothe, feed and send to school. Instead he became a self-taught mechanic, never receiving much money for his labor, but he got great satisfaction from knowing that he was able to help someone in need.

He always helped out here and there with haying and threshing wherever he could. It was hard work from early morning until late at night. Sometimes it would be 11 p.m. before they had supper as the horses had to be taken care of first.

It was hard work for the housewife too, at that time of year. They didn't have much meat on hand ready to cook, as we have today in the freezers or can buy in a nearby store. They either had to butcher some chickens, turkey, a goose or a pig, if they had any; if not there were a great many partridges, prairie chickens and fish to get. There was also bread to bake, pies, cakes and doughnuts. One couldn't go to the store and buy them as they just were not on the market. Butter was homemade, too. If one made pies they picked wild raspberries, blueberries or saskatoons and rhubarb pie was the most common. If one was lucky they might have some apples for a pie, or a lemon. Yes! custard pies were quite common, too.

I, Annie Drewoth, was born in Stuartburn, Manitoba in 1909. My dad was Ukrainian and my mother was Polish. There were only my brother John and I. A younger sister lived only a few days and Mother passed away about the same time. Dad then took us and settled in the Calmar area where he met and married his second wife. I was adopted out to an Irish family who lived in Leduc; Mr. and Mrs. John Crough (pronounced Croak) who were in their fifties and I became known as Marie Crough. I went to the King George School and passed my grade 9, then had to quit school on account of Mother's illness.

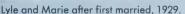
I became well learned in the culinary arts, loved sewing, gardening and flowers. I also made artificial flowers. Dad was a sherifff and when he became too old to travel the roads with his team and buggy in the summer, and cutter in the winter, he started a livery stable where people brought their horses to be fed and watered after a long trip into Leduc. Mother kept a rooming house and that was where I met my husband. He and another Danish fellow operated a chop mill across the road from our house and they got a room there. They worked for a year or so then Lyle went harvesting to Killam. When that was over he came back to grub ten acres of bush land for a neighbor. I found out later that he did this in order that we could get married and go to the States.

We were married on April 15, 1929 and went to Lake Village, Indiana which was Lyle's birthplace. He went to work with his brother, Basil, in a garage that was operated by their second cousins, George and Irvy Christensen. We were there two years and everything seemed to be going pretty well, then the depression came and, since Lyle was the last one hired, he was laid off. There were no other jobs to get and we didn't have enough money to stay there so we came home and were just in time to see his dad's lovely crop dashed to the ground by hail.

We spent the winter with his folks and on March 15, 1932 our twin daughters were born, Mary Theresa and Alvina Mae.

We purchased a farm on the south side of Wizard Lake, across from where the park is now. We got ourselves a team of horses, a wagon, a cow and some chickens. In this way we had our own eggs, a chicken now and then for Sunday dinner, our own milk and







Tiffany and Edla Sorenson.

butter, also cottage cheese. Thus we had a good variety from these; times were quite hard for everybody for a few years. There were no jobs to get and if one did get a few days work they were lucky if they were paid a dollar a day. We got ourselves some second hand machinery and farmed a few acres. When harvesting time came we cut the grain with a binder, not a swather as is used today, then the sheaves were stooked and left for a period of time. When dry they were threshed in a threshing machine. If some of the neighbors owned a threshing machine they would employ the number of men needed with their team and hayrack to haul the sheaves to the machine. They would thresh for each other until all the farms were done. If the weather permitted they would take on extra jobs.

There were times when someone in Glen Park needed their machinery repaired so Lyle would put the tools he needed in a sack and take the boat across the lake and walk to their place to do the work. If it took longer than a day or so to do it he would stay with his folks until he was finished. I was always afraid that if something should happen when he was away I would

need help, and wondered how I would get it without a phone, no car and no close neighbors.

The day came! I was out raking the yard and asked the girls to put a stick of wood in the stove. They did it but the fire was low. They knew we used some coal oil to get it going sometimes, so they did. When the flames flared up, Mary's hair caught on fire burning her eve lashes and evebrows. I had just emptied a sack of flour that morning and the bag was still lying there. Mae grabbed it and wrapped Mary's head in it snuffing out the fire, then called me. I was frightened that her eves might have been injured, but was glad we had taken the time to tell them what to do in case of fire. I put them to bed and told them to stay there as the house would be cold while I was away, then I walked to a neighbor about 3/4 of a mile away and asked them to get Lyle, then walked another half mile to John Perry's. His wife gave me an ointment that was really good for burns. When I returned Mary's face was all red and swollen. I applied the ointment a couple of times and, thank God, there was not even a scar.

When Lyle and his folks got the message they feared the worst, but by the time they got here



Marie and twin daughters, Mary and Mae, 1932.



Old Bob Munn house on north side of Wizard Lake where Marie and Lyle lived.

everything was back to normal. Just having him home gave me peace of mind.

On May 22, 1935 Lorna joined the family circle.

I baked, sewed and canned, like most of the other women in those days and washed clothes by hand which was a time-consuming job. By now we had some pigs and six cows and sold cream to the Calmar Creamery, getting anywhere from \$2.25 fto \$3.00 for a 5 gallon can. Sometimes we couldn't get the cream to town so I would churn it into butter, then take that and some eggs to the little country store about 2½ miles away. The butter brought 10¢ a lb. and the eggs were 10¢ a doz. but that was enough to get a lb. of coffee at 45¢ a lb. some sugar, 5 lbs. for 45 or 50¢ and coal oil for the lamp which cost about 25 or 30¢ a gal. Sometimes we had to burn candles for lack of oil.

On Aug. 6, 1942 Lyle Jr. arrived which made us all

happy.

The children had to walk 2½ miles to school. They were afraid to go the first mile and a half because of a bull that used to follow them to the corner, so I would go that far with them every morning till they got older.



Lyle and Marie Sorenson and family. Back row — Mary Dahl, Lyle Jr., Lorna Sorenson, Mae Holm. Front row - Parents Lyle and Marie.

Lyle started to work for Mike Sank in the Calmar Garage and worked there for thirteen years. In 1951 Mary married Milton Dahl (son of Alec and Florence Dahl). In 1952 Mae married Marvin Holm (son of Axel and Ruth Holm). In 1955 Lorna married Don Naslund. That marriage ended 14 years later.

In 1968 our son Lyle married Ann Verhage of Lethbridge and he also became a mechanic.

We have 6 grandchildren and one great-grandson and are looking forward to celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary in April 1979.

THE OSCAR SORENSON FAMILY

By Frank & Nora Sorenson

Oscar Sorenson was born in Denmark in 1873 and when very young his parents immigrated to Indiana, U.S.A. Here they lived until their demise.

In 1905 Oscar decided to come to Canada and for a time stayed with and worked for the Christensen family. They were formerly from Indiana and had purchased a farm east of Leduc.

Many members of the Sorenson family had a natural born talent for music and Oscar was no exception. He mastered the art of playing the fiddle, as violins were called in those days; a mouth organ, jewsharp and auto harp, almost all at the same time. He enjoyed playing for dances in the local school houses. Usually the dancing was an aftermath of the showing of his silent movies such as "The Drunkard's Child" and "The Face on the Barroom Floor".

He had also become rather an expert in photography, a means of earning extra money. The pioneers of that time were very proud of their new heritage and were delighted to have photos taken of the entire family plus a favorite horse or dog in front of their new house and farm buildings. Often the photo took such an expanse that it was difficult to distinguish the faces of the residents.

It was during the course of photographing families near and around Leduc that Oscar met Mrs. Anna Thompson, nee Erickson. She was the eldest daughter of Olar and Britta Erickson who had immigrated to Canada in 1898. Anna came to stay with her parents in 1905, bringing three of her five children from a former marriage, Selma, Robert and Edna. The other two Arthur and Fred, remained in Minnesota, but several years later Fred came to Canada and farmed in Buford, now known as Glen Park.

Oscar and Anna were married shortly after they met and lived in a sod, thatched house called the "Old Lindberg Place". Here, their first child, Frank was

Both Anna and Oscar took homesteads, hers was on the shore of Conjuring Lake, now called Wizard Lake. Hers was listed as SW 18-48-27 W4. Oscar's was listed as SE 24-48-28 W4. They moved to Anna's homestead as soon as a house could be built, which was done mainly with the help of neighbors and relatives.

One of the renowned builders of that time was Andrew Dickson who always managed a veranda with lattice work. At this residence Nora, Myrtle and Walter were born. Approximately six years later the family moved to Oscar's homestead where they remained a year or so before moving to Maxwell's farm.

During the period of those years Oscar had gone into a cattle business (something familiar to him from his years in the Dakotas). With his trustworthy cutting horse, Dick, and devoted collie dog he spent many hours in the saddle driving herds all the way to the stockyards in Edmonton.





Oscar Sorenson family
Oscar, his wife and Frank, Norah and Myrtle.

It was while residing at the Maxwell place that disaster struck. A fire destroyed the rather large house with all of its contents one early, cold fall morning. Neighbors rallied in an effort to subdue the blaze, but to no avail. Without insurance, clothing or household belongings, the family was virtually destitute. Anna and the three younger children lived at Calmar with Grandma Erickson for over a year, while Frank and Oscar lived on what was known as the Roll place while another house could be built on the Maxwell farm. Shortly after moving to the newly built house Oscar

Oscar Erickson family visiting the Sorensons about 1906.

decided it was time his family moved to Edmonton, as along with his other enterprises he had a yen for real estate.

It was during the course of this move that Walter who was six years old, suffered a very unfortunate accident. As a consequence he lost his sight. However, he received his education at the Brantford School for the Blind in Ontario and had the opportunity to learn to play the piano and guitar. He loved music and this gave him great solace until he could be home again in the summer holidays. Frank is also musical and plays the violin.

Oscar passed away in Quesnel, B.C. at the age of 86 in 1957.

The children are all married and living in Edmonton.



Oscar Sorenson Family: Left to Right — His wife Anna, Myrtle, Oscar, Walter, Frank and Nora (bottom centre).

TENUS SORENSON

by Marie Sorenson

Our parents Tenus Sorenson and Mary Baer were married in 1899. They lived in Lake Village, Indiana, U.S.A. which is situated 40 miles south of Chicago. Dad worked in the brick yard in Momence, Illinois; which was a few miles away. In 1907 they left for Canada, coming by train; but, from Calgary to Leduc they had to ride in a cattle car. They had 4 children at the time: Lester 7, Basil 5, Lyle 3, and Victor 6 months.

They heard a lot about this country through the many advertisements in those days to get settlers in. The slogan was, "Go west, young man, go west", to the land of golden opportunities. Our uncle Oscar came in 1905 and he had written to Dad to come as the land was cheap.

They spent the first few months on the Moberg farm, N.W. of Calmar and this gave them time to look around for a place of their own. But money wasn't very plentiful in those days and one had to be satisfied with whatever he could get for the time being. So they moved on to Gus Johnson's farm (which was in the Buford district) now known as Glen Park. Here another son, Raymond was born. They purchased some cattle, pigs, horses and chickens and Mother churned butter and packed it in wooden tubs, it was shipped to B.C. which helped with the family living.

There was nothing much in the way of entertainment in those days, so, Mr. John Mattson used to come over with his grind organ and entertain them every once in awhile.

They lived here for about 2 years, but during that time they purchased Harry Moore's homestead; which was about a mile east of the Johnson farm. This was the S.W. -28-48-27-W4. The first house was a small log building with a sod roof and this is where their twin boys were born, Breffany and Tiffany.



House built in 1912. Lester, Basil, Lyle, Victor and Raymond.



Tenus Sorenson brothers
Back row — Ed, Lester, Lyle, Raymond, Harlow, Gerald.
Front row — Basil, twins Breffany and Tiffany, and Victor.

It was plain to see by now that larger living quarters were needed. Dad had the lumber for the house; but no doors, windows or nails. How to get them was the question? Well, word got around that here was a family that needed help. So the Ole Anderson and Modin families put on a basket social and raised \$45.00 which helped towards getting these. This was greatly appreciated and along with that and many willing hands the house was completed on the S.W. corner of the homestead. I would like to mention here that the siding was hand planed by Rudolph Johnson and Ole Modin; the house is still in use today.

It was here that the twin girls and Edward were born, Ruth, (Mrs. Clarence Eklund) and Esther (Mrs. Chris Lauridson). In a year or so the Spanish influenza came along and Mother and the children were all sick except Edward. Dad was left to do the chores and keep the wood fires burning. They had good neighbors, Harlow Umberger and his wife Mary came over every day and helped in any way they could. They stayed nights too, if necessary. Uncle Oscar Sorenson was a great help, also. Doctor Woods from Leduc came and advised them what to do. There were many people in the district who had the influenza too. Mother was sick most of January and February and in March, Harlow was born. As the years passed, Gerald and Maye (Mrs. Uno Nystrom) joined the family. By this time the farm earned a title; "Sorenson's Trading Post", for in those days a lot of trading was done.

This house was a home to all, as many a weary traveller going to and from Leduc (the only close town then) were taking in their eggs, butter, hogs, cattle or fence posts in exchange for groceries, clothing, etc. They would stop here for the night, feed their horses, have supper, and also have breakfast before going on.

Mother did all her own baking; making bread nearly every day of the week. A 100 lb. sack of flour would last about 10 days. They would take their wheat to Edmonton to the flour mill and have flour made, about 20 bags at a time and this would give them porridge, too, (whole wheat and cream of wheat). Mother also sewed most of our clothes, knitted socks, mitts and sewed for the neighbors. Washing was done by hand on the old washboard in those days. It was a lot



Pete Adamic, Tenus Sorenson, Jack Stulz, Ed Sorenson, Victor Sorenson, Nick Babiak at Sorenson's Trading Post Year 1920.





Above Left to Right — Maye Nystrom (Sorenson), Esther Lauridsen (Sorenson), Ruth Eklund (Sorenson), Ruth and Esther, twin daughters of Tenus Sorenson, 1962.

Left — Tinus Sorenson, with his twin calves, at the age of 85 years.

of hard work, but they had their fun too. They were a musical family and many a night was spent in singing and dancing with neighbors and friends coming for miles around. They would bring a cake or sandwiches and spend an enjoyable evening. By this time there were community picnics to go to, with foot races, horse races, baseball and horse shoe games, etc.

In July, 1955 their second oldest son Basil passed away at 53 years. In Dec., 1959 Dad and Mother celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. On Dec. 5th, 1961 their oldest son, Lester passed away at 61 years. On March 11, 1962 Mother passed away at 79 years. In January 1969 Dad passed away at 90 years of age. On August 31, 1973 Maye (Mrs. Uno Nystrom) passed away. Victor has spent most of his life in Florida and Esther lives in Edmonton. The rest of us live in the Glen Park district, not too far from the home place.



THE ARNOLD STUBBS STORY

The way Arnold told me, his father James Stubbs, married Lydia Empy in Ontario where they farmed for several years. Three children were born — Arnold who is now 84 years young and living at the Kewana Villa at Nelson, B.C.; Vernard living in Winnipeg having lost his wife; and Vera living in Nelson, B.C. having lost her husband Clyde Emery.

They made different moves before settling down on a section of land northeast of Leduc that they paid \$2.50 an acre for in the year 1906. They started farming again, as well as having bees, as they were all fond of honey.

Arnold, Vernard and Vera attended Humble

School, then Buford Kulm School. Having to go many miles to school, they rode horseback in summer and drove the cutter in winter.

Arnold recalls how Ralph Woods, Floyd Maxwell, along with others would ride horses to Pigeon Lake to go fishing. They used a long pole with a snare at the end, as fish were plentiful in those days. They found a frying pan hanging on a tree and had a good feed before settling down for the evening, using the saddle for a pillow and the horse blanket for cover.

He was great at catching coyotes — he had greyhounds for help. He sold #1 hides for \$2.50 to \$3.00. Weasels were 75 cents a hide and rabbit hides were 22¢.

Along with Happy Phillips they played their violins at barn dances starting at 9 p.m. and playing until 6 a.m. for 75¢. Happy bought tobacco for 40¢ and Arnold's cost 35¢.

Arnold owned a white horse, well trained, and when the children around Buford (now Glen Park) saw him coming, they all ran and hid as he had a knack for scaring all the kids. Some would throw stones at him and he would catch them and dunk their faces in the water troughs. Stories would spread, so even the children who never threw stones were scared of him. Some or most of those children are grown and married



Arnold Stubbs and Melvin Anderson.

men now, and enjoy telling Arnold that they are no longer scared of him.

The children all loved him just the same, and enjoyed listening when he told stories. He had one brown eye and the other grey and could spot a coyote miles away.

Mr. Stubbs sold half a section of land to his uncle Ed Derovie who later sold to Mr. and Mrs. Littlewood. Their son Bennie also attended Kulm School having four miles to walk. His mother did a lot of tutoring. The land was on the east side of William Olson's and many miles to either school. Bennie managed to be chief fireman at Bonnie Doon station in Edmonton before passing on.

Arnold cannot remember the section which he thinks is 3-49-27-W4, but I am sure whoever reads this will know, as the land has been sold many times to a Mr. Benke, Emil Steinke, Richard Wurban, etc., etc.

A few years ago Vernard and Arnold wanted to see all the changes around the area so they motored through Glen Park, Sunnybrook, Warburg, Pigeon Lake, Calmar, and were very amazed to see where all the bush had gone and to see the highways, electricity, etc.

They can now only dream of the good old days when they were raised with coal oil lamps, round disc records on the gramaphone. They still have all the old antiques left for memories.

Arnold is hoping to make another trip back to see the old place and familiar faces, as he has many friends.

THE STULTS FAMILY

By Shirley Forsberg

The Stults family came north from Tennessee and following Mr. Stults's death, they lived in Edmonton.

Mrs. Augusta (James) Stults and her sons, Jack, Carl and George, came to the SW 18-48-27 W4. The family lived there and farmed it while 2 of the boys taught school. Mrs. Stults died around 1927.

Jack, the oldest son, farmed and served in both World Wars. During W.W.I. he attained the rank of sergeant major. He again enlisted in the Second World War. At the end of the war he returned to the farm, which he continued to work, until his death in June 1970. During this time he was an active member of the Thorsby Legion and served as its president in 1967-68.

George, the youngest son, taught school at Kulm and Wilton Park. He passed away at an early age in 1929.

Carl began teaching at the age of 17 on the prairie. He also taught at Kulm, Lake Centre, Conjuring Creek and Michigan Centre Schools.

Carl first arrived in Leduc on the train from Youngstown. He caught a ride to Munn's place, on the east end of Wizard Lake. Upon leaving his suitcases there, he walked along cow paths to the original Stults farm at the west end of Wizard Lake. That night he and Jack went back to Munn's by rowboat to get his suitcases.

Carl served in the Second World War and taught school again afterwards until 1955 when the took up farming full time. He still resides on the farm.

THE ANDREW SUND FAMILY

By Elsie Sund Erickson

Mr. Andrew Modin was born in Gagnef, Dalarna, Sweden, in 1882, the oldest of 9 children. At the age of 26, after serving several years in the Swedish army where he received his new name "Sund", he decided to accompany his brother Ole back to the "new world", Ole having been there before. In 1908 they arrived in Seattle, where they got jobs working in the



Andrew Sund and his new drill and Fordson tractor on street of Leduc during 1920's.

lumbering business. Andrew had a violin and together with Ole found that they could make fairly good spending money on tips playing and singing in saloons.

Although the weather was mild, the dampness of the coast was not too appealing so gradually they worked their way north into Canada, where they worked at a number of jobs. Andrew worked for a while as a cook for a railroad construction gang on the Grand Trunk Pacific between Hazelton and Prince Rupert, B.C. This was a challenging job in those days without refrigeration and supermarkets. Salt pork and baked beans were the main course, with C.P.R. berries (dried prunes) for dessert. All the bread had to be baked and Andrew became quite an expert at this, having to bake between 25-30 loaves at a time. There was no time for boredom as the bears provided excitement and companionship. There were always several of them around the large tent that served as the cookhouse.

Moving on to Alberta, Andrew worked for a time in a lime plant at Marlborough along with several other new comers from Sweden, some of whom later settled in the Glen Park and Willow Creek districts. Eventually he arrived in the Buford district where his uncle, Mr. Ole Anderson had a post office and a general store.

In 1911, Andrew's parents and the remainder of the Modin family arrived from Sweden. They bought a quarter section of land in the Willow Creek district. (N.E. 21-49-27-W4). Mrs. Kristina Modin died shortly after, in 1913, and Mr. Olof Modin Sr. returned to Sweden where he remarried and where he later died. The rest of the family remained in the Willow Creek district. They were Andrew, Ole, Eric, Pete, Gustaf, Axel, Anna, Christine and Oscar.

In 1912, and unknown to Andrew, a 15 year old girl, Elvira Johanson, who was one day destined to become his wife, was preparing to leave Sweden along with a younger brother and a younger sister to rejoin

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their parents and 5 other brothers and sisters in Kulm, North Dakota, U.S.A. They had made the move over a previous 2 year period. Although anxious for a reunion with her parents, the sinking of "The Titanic" only 2 months before had left visions of a similar fate uppermost in her mind, and so the crossing was made rather reluctantly.

Having visited Seattle and other parts of the U.S.A., Andrew decided that Buford was the place where he wanted to settle so he purchased a quarter section of land on S.W. 33-48-27-W4. He cleared most of the land and put up a set of buildings. During this time he also helped build an addition to Kulm School, ½ mile west, in 1919. He boarded some of the early teachers at his farm home. In 1919 he sold this farm to Johnny Erickson and bought another raw quarter one mile west on S.E. 31-48-27-W4. The Pigeon Lake Trail between Edmonton and Pigeon Lake passed through the center of this farm.

During the '20s and '30s he cleared a great deal of land and began raising bumper crops on this new fertile land. He now required the construction of a large granary to store this grain. Andrew was not a horse man, so very early in his farming career he purchased a Fordson tractor and was one of the earliest tractor farmers in the Buford area.

In 1927, Elvira Johanson in Kulm, N.D. was about to make a decision which was to change Andrew's life. In 1918, Elvira's sister Anna had married Oscar Christopherson and had left N. Dakota for a farm that they had purchased from a cousin, Mr. Elof From of Thorsby, Alberta, who was moving his family back to Sweden. This farm was situated 1 mile west of the present day Thorsby on N.E. 16-49-1-W5. Elvira planned to visit her sister whom she had not seen for several years. She had saved up enough money for a train ticket to Leduc. From there her sister had made arrangements for her to ride with the mailman, Mr. Andrew Blomquist, to the Christopherson farm home. Here she was to spend the winter of '27-'28. Not having sufficient money for a ticket back to N. Dakota, she planned to find a job the following spring to earn her ticket home. In the meantime Andrew, who was getting tired of housekeeping, had heard of this unwed Swedish spinster and decided that he should hire her. So it was, that she came to the Sund farm home, where she still resides at this time of writing. They were married on April 11, 1928 and during the following 9 years, 3 boys and 3 girls were born to this union: Elsie, Walter, Arnold, Bernard, Lillian and Marion. In time, as the family grew, a large bedroom was added to the 2-room house that Andrew had constructed for himself as a bachelor, and another bedroom was added later. Andrew had plans for a larger house but they remained a dream until the family was nearly grown, in 1951. This house burned

During the '30s, when money was scarce and many people were going to bed hungry, food on the farm was plentiful. During the early years of their marriage,

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cows and chickens were added to the farm providing them with milk, cream, butter and eggs. For the Sund family, like all farmers during this era, most of the time was spent producing, preparing and preserving food. The summer days for the Sund children were spent picking berries and herding cows along the road allowances, where grass was plentiful when pastures were spent. Farmers did their own butchering so there was no scarcity of meat. However, without electricity and deep freezers, preservation of meat was a problem, especially during the summer months. Meat, if butchered during the winter, kept quite well in the frozen state so long as the weather remained cold, but there was always the danger of a prolonged thaw. Then there would be a rush to gather up all available jars and sealers to can the meat before it spoiled. Pork however, kept quite well salted down or in a brine. Few people could afford to buy bread, especially with 6 school lunches to prepare every day. This required that bread be baked at least every other day. A 100 lb. sack of flour did not go too far, so once or twice a year a load of wheat was hauled to Edmonton to trade for flour and cereal for breakfast. In the summer there were always plenty of fresh vegetables in the garden and the Sund children had their share of raw vegetables because there never seemed to be any left to put away for the winter, especially peas. However there were always plenty of potatoes and many a winter meal was made up of "palt", a Swedish potato dumpling with a few pieces of salt pork in the center. This was eaten with plenty of home-made butter and any that was left over was cut up and fried for breakfast the next morning. It was fattening but it was delicious, filling and cheap.

Threshing time was a time looked forward to with anticipation by everyone. To Andrew it meant security, for grain in the bin meant food on the table. To Elvira it meant a once a year shopping spree for new dishes, pots and pans, etc. that needed to be replaced, and perhaps a new table oilcloth to brighten up the table. Everyone remembers the refreshing

smell of a new oilcloth in the house. To the older children harvest time meant a valid excuse to stay home from school to help with the work. It was a time of excitement that was unrivalled. To the women in the family it meant getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning to set the table and get breakfast ready, while the men fed the horses and greased up the machinery for the day's work ahead. After the threshing crew (usually about 10 men) and the family had been fed, the dishes had to be washed, cows had to be milked, the pigs fed, the younger children sent off to school and forenoon lunch sent out to the field by 9 o'clock in the morning. Then there was dinner to prepare, afternoon lunch and supper to prepare along with the evening chores. There was no time for relaxation until threshing was over. When it was over, it was with mixed feelings that they watched as the last bundle rack and threshing machine left the vard. To the children it was over far too soon and it is with a feeling of nostalgia that they now look back on those days when such things as corn flakes and tea were 'once a year' luxury items on the grocery list.

Outside activities and entertainment for the Sund family in the early days were practically non-existent. Andrew, however, owned a Briscoe touring car and the family looked forward to the trips to Pigeon Lake once or twice each summer. There was always the Glen Park Sports Day and school picnics and concerts to look forward to. Trips to town were seldom and far between and a trip to Edmonton was indeed a special event. When winter came, the car was put away to stand till spring, so horses were the only means of transportation during the winter months. When Andrew bought a 1927 Chrysler sedan, the Briscoe was converted to a small truck. In the 1950s, it was bought by Stan Reynolds of Wetaskiwin and is now in his museum.

Although life on the farm was trying at times, there was never a dull moment. There was the time when Andrew was grinding feed and decided to shut the mill



June 22, 1957 Left to right — Bernard, Elsie, Walter, Marion and Arnold. Front row — Andrew Sund, Lillian, Elvira Sund.

down for his habitual afternoon coffee break. While he was relaxing over his cup of coffee, sons no. 1 and no. 2 very innocently filled the oil pan on the old Fordson tractor with chop. Needless to say, Andrew never finished his grinding that day, and Seth Samuelson, a neighboring farmer on the quarter just east of the Sunds who was visiting there at the time, never let the boys forget the spanking they received as a result, and the boys learned their lesson well.

Andrew learned bricklaying in Sweden and this came in quite handy at times, as a means of supplementing his meagre income during the Thirties. Many of the brick chimneys in the Glen Park area were built by Andrew Sund.

Andrew used to spend the long winter evenings making sleighs and sleds for his children, his masterpiece being a Swedish "sparkstotting" which became the envy of all the neighborhood kids. It was made like a chair that was set on two long runner. A person could stand on one runner behind the chair, which could hold one passenger, and hanging on to the back of the chair push it along with the other foot. Elvira used to spend her evenings spinning and knitting mitts and socks which were a never-ending necessity. She even knit mitts for the less fortunate kids whom she saw walking down the road to and from school with bare hands on cold winter days. Besides these activities, both were fond of reading.

Andrew lived to see many changes in farming. He lived to see his family grow up, and saw three of them marry to give him grandchildren despite the fact that he married at the late age of 45. He lived to see television become a reality and saw the beginning of the space age. One dream that he never realized was to see Sweden once more. He passed away at his farm home at the age of 79 in September of 1961.

Elsie married Raymond Erickson of the Glen Park area, Walter married Susan Houle of Vancouver, and is now in Glen Park. Arnold never married and lives on the home place. Bernard married Josy Lafreniere and lives in Buck Creek, Lillian married Stanley Zarowny of Calmar and Marion married Henry Halwa of Edmonton

THE UMBARGER FAMILY

Harlow Umbarger was born in the state of Virginia Feb. 27, 1871. He married Mary Lucy McDaniel in 1894. Mary was born on Jan. 19, 1872 in Missouri. They moved to Oklahoma where 8 children were born: Hazel, John, Marie, Harry, Walter, Blanche, Charlie and Margie. They moved to Alberta in 1918 after the World War I. They brought 6 of their children with them: Walter, Marie, Harry, Blanche, Charlie and Margie. Three other families came at the same time - travelling together. They were the Welshes, Mannings and McHaskells. They settled in Edmonton and the Rabbit Hill area. They



1920 Walter Umbarger.



Marie, Walter and Margie Umbarger.

came by train and brought their livestock with them (cows, chickens and a number of donkeys - jennies and mules). They lived in Edmonton for a year, where Harlow worked for the city dairy. In 1920, they moved out to the Buford district which is now Glen Park. They lived on different farms and settled on S.E. 19-48-27 W4 where he farmed and did veterinary work. He drove a team of mules on his milk route



1937 Mary Umbarger and Grand-daughter Barbara.



1937 Albert and Margie Simpkins.

which was hauled to the Buford Cheese Factory.

In 1921, Harry passed away and in 1922, Blanche passed away. In 1924, Marie married Basil Sorenson, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Tenus Sorenson. They have 4 children: 3 boys and 1 girl. Walter returned to Oregon and married Lena. They had 4 children: 3 boys and 1 girl. Charlie returned to the U.S. and married Ruby. They had 2 girls and 1 boy. They are living in

Troy, Idaho. Margie married Albert Simpkins of Leduc. They had 2 girls.

Harlow passed away June 11, 1935. Mary returned to the States in 1937 and she passed away on March 20, 1941.

MR. & MRS. DITTERICK WIETING

by Herman Wieting

Mr. and Mrs. D. Wieting and sons — Henry, Charlie, and Herman, arrived in Buford from Salem, Oregon, in July, 1911. We stayed with Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Dahl until a house was built on the half section of land which had been purchased earlier by Dad. We brought our livestock and some machinery along with us.

Dad loved cheese so he decided to build a cheese factory on his farm close to the town line. He sent his son Henry back to Oregon to learn the trade of cheese making. His instructor was John Zahler from



Ditterick (Dan) Wieting with tobacco plants he grew in the district 1925.

Switzerland. Subsequently, dad hired him to come to Buford to run his plant. Very good cheese was made and the farmers were very pleased with the milk prices. Nanny Dahl, a local girl in her early teens, was employed at the factory.

During the first World War help was very scarce and dad was forced to close down the plant. Dairying still continued in the district.

Numerous dances were held in the cheese factory and dad and Henry would supply the music playing their violins.

Henry and Louise Oelkers were married and



Mrs. D. Wieting and Mrs. Dave Dunbar in garden behind house about 1920.

Henry and Charlie farmed the land. Later Charlie and Hilda Price from Calmar were married and they continued farming the home quarter.

Henry and Louise moved to a farm north of Breton. Charlie could see that more farm equipment was needed, but then decided a quarter section was enough land for him.

Herman married Nan Torbett and they took over the north quarter of land. They had four boys and one daughter — John, Albert, Donald, Glen and Dianne. In 1954 Herman and Nan moved to Edmonton where they are now residing.

In the 1920s the Glen Park Cheese Factory was, once again, in operation and the following cheesemakers were employed there during the next twenty five years:

Alf Cameron — Cheesmaker

Jack Hodge

Alex Kerr — first cheesemaker in the new factory in the 1930s.

Walter Carr Bill Mitchell

John Mader — March 1942 to December 1946

Phill Lafreniere — 1946 to 1950

During the depression years a new Glen Park Cheese Factory was built on L.O. Anderson's property just south of his store. How unfortunate that after having served the community well for so many years it was destroyed by fire in 1950 and it was never rebuilt.





Hauling milk to cheese factory in Glen Park. Arthur Mundy with mules.



Buford Cheese Factory

Alex Kerr cheese maker on platform. Arthur Mundy by cans and Frankie Britton by car.



Henry Wieting making cheese 1913 in Glen Park Cheese Factory.









Above — Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wieting March 1914.

Top Centre — Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wieting's wedding 1946.

Centre — Old Wieting house at Buford in 1916.

Top Right — Mrs. Wieting with son Herman and his family.

Left — John Wieting, Mrs. Campbell, Steve Wieting R.C.A.F., Albert Wieting, Glen

Wieting and Nan Wieting, 1942.

HENRY WIETING STORY

by Steve Wieting September 1978

Henry Wieting was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ditterick (Dick) Wieting. He was born at St. Francis Kansas in 1887. At an early age his folks moved to Oregon. In 1911 Dick and his family moved to Buford now Glen Park with their three children, Henry Charlie and Herman. Dick and his three sons farmed and operated the Buford Cheese Factory for many years.

In 1914 Henry married Louise Oelkers of Warburg. They lived on the old Wieting place after they were married. They had one son Steve. In 1921 Henry and Louise and their son moved to Carnwood on a farm. Steve served in the RCAF during World War II.

In 1946 Steve married Flora Gillespie from Lavoy Alberta. Steve and Flo had three children: Patricia, Raymond and John. Pat married Dave McKittrick. They have one son Bruce. Ray married Peggy Bills. They have two children, Melanie and Scott. John married Sharon Gain. They have one son Justin. Henry Wieting passed away in 1962. Louise Wieting, 91 as of March 1978, is in a nursing home in Camrose.

Grandma Wieting passed away in 1944 (Anna) Grandpa Wieting passed away in 1926 (Dick)

ALEX YACHIMEC (YACKIMETZ) FAMILY

By Stan Yachimetz

Alex Yachimec was born in Ukraine in 1899. He served in the Ukrainian Army during World War I. After the war he found that there was very little land to be had back in Europe and free land was being offered in Canada, so he came to Canada in 1923 to make a new start. Alex worked for farmers in Manitoba, then moved to Saskatchewan and Alberta to help harvest the prairie crops. He worked on railroad crews in the summertime and coal mines in the winter.

My mother, Mary Libicz was born in Ukraine in 1903. She left Ukraine and went to work in France in 1924. She worked there for about a year, went back to Ukraine and from there came to Canada in 1927. She went to work for the farmer in Redwater, who sponsored her fare over here. Moving to Edmonton, Mary went to work as a housekeeper.

Alex and Mary met in Edmonton and were married in 1928. They moved to Cardifff, Alberta where Alex worked as a coal miner. There they made their home and raised 3 children - Mary, Stanley and Mike.

In 1934 Alex decided that there was no future in coal mining so he bought land in the Thorsby area and proceeded to farm it. In the spring of 1934 Mary and the 3 children came to Thorsby by train and then were taken to their land by democrat.



Alec and Mary Yachimec with Stanley and Mary in 1932.

Alex, having two horses, a wagon and hayrack, loaded all their furniture and personal belongings, with the help of his two brothers-in-law, Mike and John Libicz. They herded 3 head of cattle and brought their belongings across Edmonton and the High Level Bridge in the early hours of the morning. Arriving on their new land with their belongings, they set up a tent and cook stove outside for cooking while they moved the log house and built a new lumber addition. A log barn with a straw roof was built for the animals, and a hand-dug well (40 ft. deep) was their water supply.

Late that summer a milk cow, a two year old steer and a yearling calf strayed away and were never found. A good neighbor (Roy Sims) heard the bad news and came over and gave his best milk cow for milk for the children until we were able to purchase and raise some more cattle. In 1935, the 7 acres that were already broken, were planted to crop and 7 more acres were hand grubbed and broken with horses. A colt was raised and another horse was bought, machinery was purchased which consisted of a new gang plow, harrows, seed drill, disc, bob sleigh, binder and a new wagon box was constructed. A new lumber two-bin granary with an attached machine shed was also built.

During those years of the depression a lot of men were on relief and labor was cheap. More land was grubbed each year and land was broken with a tractor by people who did custom breaking in the area. As years went by more machinery was purchased; a new mower, hay rake and a fanning mill. The threshing was done in stacks by local people who had a threshing machine.

As livestock was increased, the water supply was dwindling, so a new well was drilled by cable tool, and a new pump jack and engine were purchased. Also more shelter was needed, so in the winter logs were cut and sawed to build a new hip roof barn. During those years two more boys were born, Nestor (Nels) and Eugene.

Two of the children, who were unable to speak English, started school at Kulm in 1938 with their first teachers, Jack and Esther Hughes. The majority of the class was of Swedish descent. Kulm was a two-room school where grades one through twelve were taught.

While attending Kulm in the spring of the year, in our spare time, we constructed a raft across the road north of the school where there was a big slough. We were forbidden to leave the school yard so we would go east of the school into the bush where we would not be seen and then cross the road so we could get to our raft. After the raft was completed, one morning we got to school early and decided to take it on its maiden voyage. Not to mention any names, we pushed away from shore about 200 yards into two to three feet of water - the raft started to sink. The water was almost to the top of our rubber boots so our captain decided to lighten the load. He threw the smallest fellow overboard which resulted in bringing our raft up so we could get it back to shore. The fellow that was thrown overboard had to walk through two to three feet of cold water to get back to school. He was stripped down, the clothes were wrung out by the teacher and hung around the jacket of the stove to dry. The teacher used her overcoat as a blind for the boy to stand behind while he dried off and warmed up.

We weren't always mischievous - we worked very hard practicing baseball, which built us the finest baseball team. The boys that attended Kulm school held the district baseball trophy for three consecutive years (which still is in the district). The other Yachimec children attended school in Kulm, Calmar and Thorsby.

In those days we went to church whenever the weather and road conditions permitted. Working on Sunday was forbidden except for care and feeding of livestock.

In those years when the land was cleared, the trees were hauled into the yard for winter fuel supply. The trees were sawed by a buzz saw by someone in the area who did custom sawing. During the winter the blocks were split and put in a large pile to dry all summer for next winter's fuel. In the late fall the winter's food supply was purchased: 12 sacks of flour, 200 pounds of sugar, 20 pounds of coffee, etc. That was stored in a granary on top of the wheat. For the meat supply, a hog was butchered and hung in the hallway of the two-bin



granary. In those years there were no deep freezes. I remember Dad buying a pair of bib overalls for \$1.40 and complaining about them going up in price. In the spring another hog was butchered, sausage and head cheese was made, some smoked and cured, the rest salted in a barrel.

Some of the winter nights were spent stripping goose feather for ticks and pillows. The flour and sugar sacks were washed and made into bed sheets, pillow cases and towels, etc. My mother spent many a winter night by a dim coal oil lamp, making clothes and making over 'hand-me-downs' for there was not that much money. The money was spent on clearing land and machinery. Whenever there was a crop failure Dad would go to the coal mines for the winter to make extra money, leaving Mother and the children at home to look after the livestock.

In 1939, the war years changed the scene in the district. Some of the boys enlisted and some were drafted. Some of our colleagues lost their lives for our country and some came home proud heroes. The boys

in the family, being too young to enlist, helped the war effort by raising hogs and milking cows. During the war years the family raised approximately 200 hogs at all times and milked 20 cows by hand, which was done by all members of the family from big to small. During this time another boy by the name of Zenon was added to the family.

By that time help was harder to get so the remainder of the land was cleared by a D60 caterpillar gasoline-driven engine and a V-brush cutter that looked like a devil knocking trees each way. The land was broken and made ready by the first rubber-tired tractor.

The first money earned for myself was when I was 13 or 14 years old. During summer holidays I worked on a road crew for 60¢ an hour, cutting brush and building roads. At harvest time the first year, I put in 32 days threshing with a bundle team and 35 days that following year. During the harvest, we would be up by 5 A.M. and worked until 9 p.m. for \$10.00 a day with team and rack.

In 1941 the family's first car was a 1932 Plymouth and Philco radio, which served us for many years, was purchased at a local farm auction. The car was traded for breaking more land. The wooden aerial was struck by lightning and blew up the radio. Luckily the house was not burned down.

In those years the family name was changed from Yachimec to Yackimetz due to another Alex Yachimec who bought and moved into the Thorsby district (Fruitland). The reason for the change was that mail would get mixed up and the two families would have to meet and sort out the mail, which took a visit every two weeks to one or the other home, which turned out to be a kind neighborly visit.

At the beginning of the war years, help and new equipment was hard to find. An order for a new Oliver tractor was put in, but due to the war it could not be purchased. The order was left standing for the first available tractor. In the summer of 1943 a notice was received that a tractor on rubber wheels was available at Millet. In order to buy the tractor Dad would have to pay \$200.00 over and above to the dealer (under the table). The tractor cost \$1,530.00 That was one of the first rubber-tired tractors to come into the area. Neighbours thought that a rubber-wheeled tractor would not be able to do any work. With the money I earned and saved in 1946, when I was 15 years old, I enrolled in a technical school in Edmonton and took up Diesel Automotives and Welding. I have been on my own ever since.

Alex Yachimec passed away in March, 1976 at the age of 77. Mary Yachimec still resides on the farm with her son, Nestor.

My sister, Mary married Mike Mikula of Thorsby. They had one child, Marjorie. Mary resides in Edmonton.

I, married Irene Markwart of Lougheed. We have two children, Walter and Nestor and reside in Calmar.

Mike is living in Thorsby.

Eugene married Carol Fosberg of the Glen Park district and they have two boys, Preston and Trevor. They are living at Mulhurst.

Zenon married Faye Clark of Mulhurst. They have three children: Lee, Janice and Kathy and reside at Hay Lakes.

EARLY SETTLERS OF THE KULM DISTRICT SOME WHO MAY NOT BE MENTIONED IN HISTORIES

Anders Sallstrom and son, Leonard, came from Sorsele, Sweden in 1910 and bought the late Robert Mattson place - SW 36-48-28 W4. Anders died in 1914 leaving it to Leonard, who sold it to Tom Papyrnick. Emil Hebner later owned it and sold it to E. Elgert who still lives there. Leonard purchased SE 1-49-28 W4 from John Fleet who owned a lot of land



House was built in 1911 on Harry Moore's Homestead. From left to right — Lyle, Lester, Tenus Sorenson, Raymond, Basil, Victor.



Mr. and Mrs. Alec Fedor and son William, daughter Nettie holding horse and daughter Mary.



Cattle drive 1919

Main street in Leduc returning from Edmonton after a cattle drive.

Left to right — Axel Holm, Carl Eklund, Arthur Dahl, Ferdinand Dahl,

Herbert Lindgren and Victor Sorenson.

in the area. Leonard sent for his wife and daughter, Lily, from Sweden. Two more girls were born to them in Buford; Vera and Elna. He then sold the farm to J. Supeen in 1921 and moved to Meeting Creek. He repossessed the land from Supeen and sold it to Dan Popik. In the meantime the buildings were occupied by several families until they established themselves elsewhere. They were the Aubrey Zeiners, Joe Frankos and I. Yacunskis.

Nimko homesteaded NW 18-48-27 W4 very early. Later the Stults brothers bought it. Adamkewicz

homesteaded the NE ¼ of the same section which was also bought by the Stults brothers. Fedor homesteaded the SW 18-48-27 W4. Dobko bought it and later P. Harman bought it and sold it to the Stults brothers. They also purchased the SE ¼ so they owned the whole section.

Leroy Sims came with his parents from Montana in the early 1920's and bought NW 25-48-28 W4. His father passed away shortly after but his mother lived to reach the age of 86 and passed away at home. Leroy later married Misper Walz who passed away a few years later, probably soon after World War II.

Leroy was wed a second time to Olive Johnson. He died but the date is indefinite.

Mr. Laarz built a home on NW 17-48-27 W4. Ben Forsberg then owned it and now it belongs to Wayne Forsberg.

Solberg was the first Buford postmaster on 12-48-28 W4.

John Mattson homesteaded NE 24-48-20 W4. He came from Sweden with 4 sons: August, Robert, Gust and Ludwig. The buildings on that place were later occupied by several families who arrived in the area and were searching for temporary homes. Some of them were the John Dahlbecks, Ludwig Nelson, Umbargers, Alfred Dahls, and August Bergstrom. The place is now owned by John Ostopchuk.

Hudson homesteaded SE and NE 2-49-28 W4 and also owned NW and SW 1-49-28 W4.



John Mattson.

August Carlson came from Sweden in 1907 and homesteaded 14-48-28 W4. There being no roads out there, he gave it up and purchased NW 31-48-27 W4. His nephew, Frank Carlson, his wife, Christina, and son, Folke, came from Sweden and eventually took over the farm and August retired to Pigeon Lake.

KULM SPORTS



Buford softball team in 1940.

Left to Right — Effie Nystrom (Lindgren), Grace Philips (Forsberg), Alma Moeller (Bentley), Alvena Popik, Florence Anderson (Erickson), Laura Moeller (Johnson, deceased), Verna Nystrom (Nickols), Rosella Anderson (Forsberg), Marjorie Landells (Shroyer), Ethel Rye (Irvin).



Buford Hockey team in 1921.
Left to Right — Carl Alenius, Hubert Jonson,
Bertle Forsberg, Earl Erickson, Herbert
Lindgren, Ferdinand Dahl, Lenus Johnson,
Arthur Melin, Lyle Sorenson, Helge
Forsberg, Henry Melin, Frans Melin and
Hiram Helgren.



1932 Buford baseball team that won games. Left to Right — Hubert Jonson, Earl Erickson, Leonard Dahl, Berger Forsberg, Manfred Oslund. Seated — Carl Eklund, Roy Anderson, Willie Dahl, Helge Forsberg.



1937 team that won many league games for Buford.
Left to Right, back row — Stanley Ekstrom, Howard Philips, Roy
Anderson, Bob Hales, Allan Philips, Ralph Philips.
Front Row — Hubert Jonson, Earl Erickson, Berger Forsberg, Helge
Forsberg and Hilbert Forsberg absent from photo.



Buford basketball team 1926. Left to Right — Eileen Erickson, Florence Anderson, Rosella Anderson, Ina Fors and Edna Lindgren.



Buford Ball Team in 1906. Left to Right — Andrew and Eric Carlson, Roudolph Helgren, Roudolph Oslund, Frank Bjur, Matt Olson, Arthur Dahl, Carl Nystrom and Fred Hamilton.



Mr. Anderson with his sons Eric and Andrew on a fishing trip to Conjuring Lake about 1908. The guns were used as their protection against bears.



Skating on Buckinghorse Lake about 1912. Left to Right — Minnie Ringwall, Nannie Dahl, Linda Helgren, Judith Helgren, Clara Nystrom, Hilda Anderson, Elsa Jonson.



Boating on Conjuring Lake. Left to Right — Elmer Westlund, Emil Lundblad, Oscar Modin, Wilfred Dixon, Robert Westlund, Herman Wieting, Herbert Lindgren, Arvid Dixon, Eddie Erickson, Henry Westlund, Harold Phillips, Charlie Erickson. Sitting Left to Right — Adolph Lundblad, Edwin Bergstrom, Eric Dixon, Grace Anderson and Annie Lundblad.



Buford ball team in 1920. Left to Right — Bob Lee, Fred King, Deb Blondheim, Earl Hamilton, Melvin Anderson, Floyd Maxwell, Ralph Woods, Ernie Cook, Floyd Hamilton, Manley Burley and, front, Walt Blondheim.

Morrowdale



School Pistrict No. 4740 August 6, 1936

Morrowdale School soon after it was built.

The First Homesteaders & Grants to the CPR

The Information on this Map Courtesy of: Alberta Prov. Archives and Alberta Gov't Map Division

MORROWDALE SCHOOL

By Ella Schmidt

The first recorded meeting of the Morrowdale school board was held on Aug. 24, 1936. At the meeting Mr. Edwin Henchell was appointed chairman and Arthur Hebner secretary-treasurer. Trustees were William Krueger, Edwin Henchell and William Sontag. Other trustees until 1942 were: Nick Martinoff, Peter Chrunik, Louis Ankerstein, and Ed Bilou. The minutes do not tell us when the decision to form a school district was first made; nor do they state how it was named. From other sources we find that it was named Morrowdale after the Morrow family who operated a lumber business and sawmill nearby.

It was decided that rather than wait for a school building to be built, classes would begin at once in St. Stephen's Lutheran Church which was located on the Hebner farm, the NW 8-48-R1-W5.

Twelve desks were purchased from Dniester school for \$94.50 (half price). A blackboard and other equipment was bought. Miss Myrna Babiak was the first teacher and classes began September 14, 1936.

It must have been a difficult task for this young lady since all the children from 6 to 14 years started school. Most had never been to school before and the majority could not speak English.

The first year she was paid \$600.00. The secretary-treasurer was paid \$20.00 a year and paid his own expenses for stationery, etc. The trustees traveling expenses were paid by the school district. Wood and coal supplies were put up for tender and the prices varied with the tender. In October 1936, the tender for wood was \$2.00 a cord and coal was \$1.99 per ton. Later the wood was as low as \$1.67 a cord.

The janitor was also chosen by tender and was usually one of the pupils. Prices ranged from \$2.50 to \$4.00 a month. It was his or her job to start the fire in the morning. Occasionally, pre-school children were sent to school with their older brothers and sisters when the parents had to be away for the day. I remember being sent on a number of occasions and



Morrowdale class when Lutheran church was used for school. Pupils were: Sontags, Krugers, Schmidts, Rinas', Wanagus', Martinoff, Dedios, Hebners, Labas, Chrunika, Koperskis, Raschs, Korols.

some knowledge must have been absorbed as I was promoted to second grade after one year in school.

Meanwhile plans went ahead for the building of a school. Land for it was purchased from the C.P.R. with 2 acres for \$17.00 an acre. This was located on the S.W. corner of SW 17-48-1 W5.

From the minutes of Jan. 9, 1937, "the school shall be 24 by 28 feet with a four-sided cottage roof". The logs were purchased from Melin's sawmill for \$35.00. Each ratepayer was asked to pay \$1.50 to help pay for the logs and \$2.00 per quarter section to hire someone to put up the walls. The roof was shingled and oiled with used oil. The floor was oiled and the school was painted with paint supplied by the school district. The painter, Ed Henchell, was paid \$20.00 for putting on the first coat and \$8.00 for the second. Later on Mr. A. Grohn was paid \$10.00 for building a library $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 5 feet and 26 inches high, with 2 shelves and glass doors, also a woodbox 2 by 4 feet.

Each district set its own time for school opening, holidays, etc. Board meetings were held frequently in the afternoon. It is interesting to note that one teacher resigned on Aug. 31, then a replacement had to be found and classes did not start until well into October.

The second teacher was a source of frustration to both school board and pupils. He disciplined the children by pulling their hair, hitting them with the yardstick or slapping them. One little girl had her fingers rapped until they were black and blue. An older boy had a violin bow broken across his head in an incident during the Christmas program practise.

The school board had a special meeting and interviewed the children. The teacher was asked to resign and a full report sent in to the Department of Education. The superintendent came out to investigate but the board was unsuccessful in his dismissal and he stayed until the end of the term.

Mr. T.H. Wells was the next teacher, beginning in September 1939. He and his wife had no children and lived in a cottage at Fisher Home on Pigeon Lake. He boarded with the Hebners and spent the weekends at the lake. Later, when a teacherage was built at the school, his wife joined him and they became a part of the community. Mrs. Wells played the piano and some local youngsters took their first music lessons from her.

Mr. Wells had a novel method for calling children into the classroom when classes were to begin. He put a record on the gramophone and the pupils lined up and marched to their desks to the music. A popular record was "Anchors Aweigh." Often one of the pupils would operate the gramophone. In 1941 the school district entered the larger school unit. In 1944 and '45 Mr. Wells had his first grade IX pupils, namely Esther Meckley and myself. The departmental examinations had to be written in Thorsby and Esther chose not to write them, so I went alone. The fact that I passed with an A was a credit to the teacher.

Mr. Wells stayed until his retirement in the late 1940s and was the only teacher some of the children





BETWEEN

A BOARD AND A TEACHER other than a Substitute or Temporary Teacher

This agreement made in triplicate.

BETWEEN:-	- 00	
	The Board of Manager Halle School Destrok (Insert name of School District or School Division as the case may be)	
1	No. 4746 of the Province of Alberta (hereinafter called "the Board"),	
	-// and -	
Ç	Thomas Henry Wells	
	(Weile Namy of full)	
(of many	
	the holder of a (Insert class of certificate)	
	Certificate of qualification as a teacher in Alberta, hereinafter called "the Teacher".	
WITNESSE		
Education, t	bject to the provisions of <i>The School Act</i> , 1931, and the Regulations of the Department of he Board hereby employs the Teacher, and the Teacher agrees to teach and conduct school ed on the following terms:	
	1. The annual salary shall be \$ 846 and subject to the following schedule of increases:	
•		
	to the first term of the first	
	2. The period of employment shall be from and including the 184 day of	
	September, 194 /	
	01.4	
DATED this		
0	Signed on behalf of the Board [CORPORATE SEAL].	
1	Cuch erstein T. Martinoff	
	Witness to Chairman's signature. Chairman.	
N.	24 01 . 1 21 9/1.100	
	eter Churik Thomas Hell's Witness to Teacher's signature. Teacher.	
	Withess to reacher's signiture.	
	No. of Teacher's Alberta Certificate	
*	Teacher's Address in School District or Division.	
For (er to The School Act, 1931, and Amendments thereto: engagement and contract, see Sections 155 to 158 (inclusive) minimum salary, see Section 161. method of payment of salary, see Sections 161 to 164 (inclusive).	
For	method of terminating an agreement, see Section 157. Information regarding vacation periods and holidays see Sections 144 and 145.	
Teac	ther should sign with Christian names in full.	
The One	Chairman or any other Trustee authorized to do so may sign (Section 158). copy of this Agreement should be retained by the Board, another by the Teacher, and the third forwarded at once to the Department of Education.	
NOTE TO TEACHER: Refer to "The Teachers' Retirement Fund Act, 1939".		
Refe	r to "The Teaching Profession Act, 1935", and Amendments thereto:	
	notifying the Secretary of the Alberta Teachers' Association forthwith of particulars of this engagement.	
. IN DIVISIO	notifying the Secretary of the Alberta Teachers' Association forthwith of particulars of this engagement. ONS. Give name of School District to which Teacher has been allocated and advise Department of sub- ent changes.	



Morrowdale School Children. Back Row L. to R.: Eric Grohn, Sieghard Schmidt, Stanley Dedio, Casey Koperski, Gordon Krueger, John Koperski, Ben Grohn, 2nd Row: Adeline Laba Katie Chrunik, Esther Meckley, Ella Schmidt, Rosie Dedio, Adeline Laba, Laura Dedio, 3rd. Row: Leah Rasch, Erna Grohn, Doris Bilou, Lily Laba, Esther Bilou. Picture taken about 1944.

ever had. On his retirement the Wells lived on in their cottage and later moved to Edmonton, where they lived until they died. His wife outlived him by several years.

Ronald Myers taught after Mr. Wells and stayed two years. He was followed by Sophie Gallagher who taught until the school was closed in the late 1950's. The children were then bussed into Thorsby.

The school building was then bought by the community to be used as a community centre. The community association is now in the process of adding an addition to the building. They hold an annual Farmers' Day picnic and the grounds are used for ball games and wiener roasts. Family reunions and picnics are held during summer months. The trees that were planted years ago by the children have grown tall around the sides of the school grounds and it is an ideal spot for a variety of activities for the local people.



Last class before Morrowdale School closed in 1957. Some of the pupils identified are: Back Row: Hertha Neumann, Mary Koperski, Joe Koperski, Gerhard Neumann, David Rasch, Marvin Oppegard, Nickie Gallager. Front Row: Virginia Helm, Terry Branton, Eddie Fensky, Ted Branton, Jeffrey Helm, Craig Helm, Bob Oppegard and Edward Martinoff.

ST. STEPHEN'S MORROWDALE LUTHER AN CHURCH

The Morrowdale church came into existence in 1934 and was completed in 1935. Several families of the Sunnybrook congregation withdrew their membership because of poor roads and the distance they had to go, and organized a congregation in the Morrowdale district. The meeting was held in the home of A. Grohn on Jan. 30, 1933. The church was erected with logs cut by local people and volunteer labor. School classes were held in it prior to a school being completed.



Congregation of the Morrowdale church before 1935 at R. Schmidt home.



Morrowdale Church Band in 1935 L. to R.: Richard Loleit, Art Hebner, Adolph Grohn, Gus Wanagus, Rudolph Schmidt, Robert Grohn, and Ed Henschel.



Congregation at Morrowdale St. Stephen's Church at last service.



Morrowdale Church at closing.



Dedication of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Morrowdale in 1935.

The church was dedicated on Aug. 11, 1935 and stood on land donated by Mike Hebner, with land for a cemetery beside it. Some of the first families in the congregation were Rudolph Schmidts, Grohns, A. Gebauers, P. Sontags, Hebners, Richard Loeleit and Gus Wanagus'. More people joined as they moved into the community and soon the William Krugers, Albrechts and Ed Bilous were attending. A choir and church band was organized. The first wedding in it was that of Ella Hebner and Leo Wedman. Organists for the congregation were the three daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Schmidt, Linda, Emma and Ella.

In the early 1960's there was talk of merging with the Thorsby congregation of St. Matthew and the last wedding held in the church was that of Lenora Lindbergh and Bernard Martinoff. The last baptisms were Lyle Kruger, son of Harold and Jean Kruger and David Dool, son of Steve and Julia Dool.

A special service was held in 1964 to close the church and the congregation merged with St. Matthew's in Thorsby.

LADIES AUXILIARY OF ST. STEPHEN'S MORROWDALE CHURCH

written by Ella Schmidt

There was no organized ladies group in the Morrowdale church until the mid 1950's. It was while the Rev. H.H. Poggemiller was pastor (1954 to 1960) the ladies organized a group known as Women's Missionary Society. Their first president was Agnes Lange and the average attendance at meetings was seven to ten.

The main emphasis was on Bible study, related topics and evangelism. Offerings were taken but only an occasional money making project was undertaken. Some of their income was used for the local congregation but the major portion was sent to missionaries and needy people throughout the world.

Most of the members were mothers with small children, so meetings were usually held in the afternoon in their homes. Pre-school children were brought along. Some of the ladies did not drive a car so those who did always had a load of passengers. Some meetings were held in the evenings and the husbands would bring their wives and remain to visit with other men. At such times the hostess found the meeting a big undertaking.

In 1961 the Women's Missionary Society became Lutheran Church Women, with most of the same aims and objectives as before. They were part of the larger unit and sent delegates to the conventions of the Lutheran Church Women in the Western Canada Synod. Closer to home the LCW groups met every fall in District Assemblies. Any member could attend these assemblies.

When the congregation of St. Stephen's merged

with the Thorsby congregation of St. Matthew in 1964, the L.C.W. groups merged also. Many of those same ladies are still members and continue the tradition of serving God and their fellow men and women.

THE MORROW LUMBER CO.

By Vera Alberg

In either 1916 or 1917 Sam Morrow operated a sawmill south and west of Sunnybrook, leasing a portable mill from Charlie and Fred Frieman. The next year he bought machinery and built a stationary sawmill straight south of Sunnybrook (1920). This he operated until the timber around it was depleted. This timber had been purchased from A.B. Rowley who for years before had a sawmill at Mulhurst.

Our oldest brother Bob was studying to be a doctor at the University of Alberta. During the summer months he was a great help with the sawmill. He helped haul the machinery from Leduc to the mill site, and this was all done with horses. In 1926 a more elaborate mill was built, 1 mile west and 1 mile south of where the Morrowdale School was built years later. It had electric light powered by a steam turbine.

Log buildings were erected which consisted of bunkhouses, barns, blacksmith shop, cookhouses, and offices. The mill was now able to operate year 'round as logging was being done at the same time. There was a crew of 17 men in the mill and from 12 to 18 men in the bush. All logging was done by hand crosscut saws, horse skidding, and logs hauled with sleighs pulled by horses. This mill operated under the name of "The Morrow Lumber Co." with several members of the family helping; Jim, Helen, and Vera, and in later years Albert and Alberta.

The closest railroad was the main C.P.R. line between Edmonton and Calgary so we had a lumber yard at Kavanagh. The lumber was hauled by farmers to Kavanagh, generally taking lumber in trade for hauling. In 1925 Helen started to work for the Company in Kavanagh. Her duties were to scale the lumber hauled in and sell lumber, as well as to keep the books for the lumber yard. In between times she made many a long trip out to the sawmill with provisions or men.

Vera's duties at the sawmill included scaling lumber, keeping books and sometimes cooking, as well as driving to Edmonton for repairs and groceries. Our father purchased a 1924 Dodge touring car which made the travelling much easier, but with no gravel roads, sometimes we would never change from low gear from the mill to Leduc, a distance of 30 miles.

In the spring of 1930, Sam Morrow suffered a severe heart attack and was unable to continue his duties at the mill. This threw a heavier load on Helen and Vera as they had to assume more of the management of the mill and lumberyard.



Slabbing operation at the old Morrow sawmill.



New camp cookhouse nearing completion at the Morrow Mill.



The Morrow Lumber sawmill, situated south of Sunnybrook.

In 1931 Sam Morrow hired Eric Alberg for bush foreman. In 1932 a romance started between Eric and Vera and in 1934 they were married. We still carried on with the sawmill until 1938, when all the timber was depleted. Then there was the job of dismantling the sawmill and buildings and hauling the machinery to Kavanagh for sale.

Lumber prices in 1919 were approximately \$40 per thousand board ft. which looked profitable, but in 1922 lumber prices started to drop and money was very scarce until 1929 when the Crash came. When it came, wages were from \$12.00 to \$15.00 dollars a month including room and board.

After the railroad was built to Thorsby, some lumber was shipped from there. Some of the early buildings were built in the town with lumber from Morrow Lumber Co.

In later years we purchased 2 trucks and hauled our own lumber from the mill to Kavanagh, sometimes getting stuck in the mud holes or skidding into the ditches. Because of the poor prices of lumber, Vera and Helen took their turn driving the trucks. Albert was, for several years, truck driver and mechanic. Jim kept the family farm going and supplied meat and vegetables for the mill. Our mother did her share of the work both at the mill and at the farm. She made butter and did other household duties for the mill.

She passed away in 1930 and our father passed away in 1941.

HENRY ALBRECHT FAMILY

Henry Albrecht, the second oldest son of John and Othelia Albrecht, married Adina Hebner of the Morrowdale District, in 1928. They had no children. When he sold the farm at Calmar in 1932, he went into partnership with Leo Wedman to purchase and



Henry and Adina Albrecht.

operate a feedmill in Thorsby. He sold out in 1939 and bought the SE 9-48-1-W5 in the Morrowdale district. In 1942 he sold out and moved to Olds, Alta. He passed away in 1954 and was buried in Mount Pleasant cemetery in Edmonton.

FERDINAND (JOHN JR.) ALBRECHT

John sold his farm in the Morrowdale district to his brother Sam in 1937. He owned a 15-30 McCormick-Deering tractor and other farm machinery with which he did custom work for other farmers. In the winter he did some logging and net fishing. In 1940 he entered the army and sold his farm machinery. After the war ended, he moved to Penticton, B.C. where he has lived since.

SAM ALBRECHT FAMILY

Sam Albrecht, youngest son of John and Othelia Albrecht, farmed in the Morrowdale District from 1939 to 1944. He married Hedwig Wutski of



Sam and Hedwig Albrecht.

Saskatchewan. They moved to Manitoba and later to Comox, B.C. They raised a family of 3 boys and 2 girls; Edgar, Alfred, Reginald, Margaret, and Debra.

HISTORY OF THE JOHANAS BAUMAN FAMILY (JOHN SR.)

Related by granddaughter Olga (Bauman) Brandt

The Johanas and Justina Bauman (nee Sarbok) family originates back to Manabavka, Russia. They had a family of 7 children, Edward, John Jr., Mary, Matilda, Reinhold, Hilda, and William.

The Bauman family immigrated to Canada in 1911 while the children were still very young. They finally ended up settling in the Hilda area, which is near Medicine Hat, Alta. The family endured many hardships while trying to make a living in a strange country. Grandfather operated his own blacksmith shop where he fixed many things for his neighbors and people in the surrounding area, which was a big help.

They took the whole family to church every Sunday. The 6 miles was driven by wagon and ox-teams across the wild prairie where the winds really blew, winter or summer.

After residing at Hilda for several years and enduring many hardships, the Baumans, along with some other families - the August Ruffs and the Andrea Knopps, decided to pick up again and choose a new home for themselves.

In 1923 these families disposed of most of their possessions by auction sale. The more valuable things they took with them as they set out by covered wagons for the Thorsby area. The nearly 30 head of cattle, which were part of the caravan, had to be herded and milked everyday. The chickens who rode underneath the platform on the header box had to be tended to. They did lay an egg now and then, which helped provide for the food.

The group encountered many experiences and problems, when crossing rivers, and when they met up with other herds along the way. Also a few horses disappeared and couldn't be found. The approximately 2-month journey ended when the caravan at long last reached the Leduc area. The different families separated, and went their own way.



The birthplace of Olga and Arthur Bauman. This log house was built in 1928 and still stands on the former Bauman farm, southwest of Thorsby.

The Bauman's settled in the Thorsby area, 1½ miles west of the hamlet near the Frank From place. Their children grew up and too went their own way. One daughter, Mary, had married before they left Medicine Hat. The other children married and settled in the Thorsby area.

Grandmother was often called on to be a midwife. She delivered several of her grandchildren and other babies.

In their later years my grandparents lived on the same yard as my parents. I remember as a child how they used to sit in the dark, in front of the fire, in their rocking chairs singing hymns with their grandchildren. They read their Bibles daily and Grandma used to sing in a church choir. I surely enjoyed those childhood days that will never return.

My grandfather died about 1947 and Grandma in 1952.



Reinhold Bauman farmstead. Southwest of Thorsby.

REINHOLD BAUMAN AND WALDEMAR BRANDT STORY

related by Olga (Bauman) Brandt

Reinhold Bauman was born in Manabavka, Russia, Jan. 31, 1906. As a young child he came to Canada with his parents, Johanas and Justin (nee Sarbok)



Reinhold Bauman family, about 1948. Back row, L. to R.: Art, Arnold, Reinhold and Emilia. Front Row: Don. Emil and Wanda.

Bauman. He married Emilia Belo in 1929. She was born on Feb. 19, 1907. Their children are Olga, born Oct. 6, 1931, Arthur, born Nov. 9, 1932, Daniel (Don) born May 14, 1936, Emil, Feb. 27, 1939, and last of all Wanda, born Jan. 21, 1941.

Reinhold and Emilia lived at several locations in the Thorsby area. For a time they lived on what is now the Cholach farm, located 1½ miles west of Thorsby near highway 39. The little log house where Olga and Art were born is still there today.

For a time the family lived in Kelowna, British Columbia. This is where Don was born. He was the only one of the children to be born in a hospital. All of the other children were born at home and delivered by their Grandmother Bauman.

Times being not so good in B.C. Reinhold and his

family moved back to Alberta and settled in the Morrowdale area southwest of Thorsby on the SE 16-48-1 W5. They lived on the same yard with Reinhold's parents.

The children all had a limited amount of schooling at Morrowdale school. They all learned responsibility at an early age. Olga remembers washing clothes on a washboard for years until power came to the area and a washing machine was bought. She also remembers the oxen that were used to work the fields. As a young girl, she worked as a hired girl for various people. The pay was \$25.00 a month and some of the work she had to do was scrubbing clothes by hand, milk a herd of cows by hand and hoe the garden.

In the blueberry season, Emilia Bauman and the children would walk (or drive if the horses weren't used for other work) to pick blueberries about 3 miles away. The berries were sold and this helped to buy clothes etc. for the children to go to school.

Slowly the children grew up and left home. Art married Rita MacDonald of Calahoo. They have 2 children, Terry and Laurie and are living in Edmonton.

Don married Edith Lorentz from the Pipestone area. They own and operate the Owl's Nest Resort in Oyama, B.C. They have 3 sons, Dean, Doyle and Darrel.

Emil married Joan Hirsekorn who grew up near Leduc. They are farming in the Hay Lakes area and have a daughter named Kim.

Wanda married Emil Ducholke who grew up in the Strawberry and Stony Plain area. They have 3 children Sandy, Cheryl and Sheldon. They live in Edmonton.

Emilia Bauman died suddenly in Feb. 1954. Reinhold has been living in Thorsby for a number of years. Their farm is now owned by Ben Steinke.

Olga married Waldemar Brandt. They have eight children, Doreen, Victor, Anita, Teddy, Ernie, Wilfred, Robert and Loretta.



Waldemar Brandt family, Olga and Waldemar (s.). L. to R.: Doreen, Loretta, Wilfred, Victor, Anita, Teddy, Ernie, Robert, on the occasion of parents 25th Wedding Anniversary.

Waldemar Brandt grew up in Germany and several other places in Europe. He was born Nov. 15, 1928. His parents are Herman and Elsa (Grohn) Brandt who are living in Edmonton. His brothers are Alex, Art and Erwin, who also live in the Edmonton vicinity. His sister Margaret, passed away in 1968 in Germany.

Waldemar had European schooling and has the ability to speak several languages. While serving in several of the European armies during World War 2, Wally and his family were often separated and frequently lost contact for some time.

Wally was the first of his family to emigrate to Canada in 1949. Later he gave support so the rest of his family could come to Canada too, first his brother Alex and the rest about 1960.

Coming to a strange country and unable to speak the language, Wally was a lost man for a while. He stayed with his aunt and uncle Erna and Rudolf Schmidt, who lived in the Morrowdale district. Erna Schmidt and Waldemar;s mother are sisters. Their brother Robert Grohn and father Adolph Grohn were also somewhere in the area. Being able to mix with relatives, Wally soon learned to speak English and began to feel at home in Canada.

He worked for his uncle Rudolf, doing farm work and also as a stucco worker. He learned the stucco trade well enough from his uncle that he was able to obtain his own license.

With Schmidts and Baumans being neighbors, it was not long until Wally met Olga Bauman. After a long courtship, the two were married Oct. 31, 1951. Wally built his own house on the Bauman yard and this is where they made their home. They started their family when Doreen was born in 1952.

It wasn't long before Wally decided to get a place of his own. He sold the house he built and bought the farm he is presently living on, which is 3 miles south of Warburg. With times being hard Wally had to seek work in Edmonton. He moved his small family to Edmonton, where they lived in a rented house while he continued with his stucco work. Finally moving back to the farm as things began to perk up. Land was cleared, more livestock was bought and things progressed. A dairy barn was added to the farm and the dairy is still in operation.

Shortly after the Brandts came back to the farm.

thieves broke into the house while they were away for the day. All the jars of canned vegetables and meat were stolen. What wasn't stolen was vandalized. It was a big loss, just as winter was settling in, and Olga had come home with a new baby a short time before.

Wally and his brother Alex, logged on Wally's farm for several winters. This helped to pay for the farm and support the family. Wally also worked at stuccoing and plastering houses in the area. Since 1957, he has worked on his own.

The children were baptized in Trinity Lutheran Church in Warburg, where the Brandt family became active members.

With a family of 8 children, the place was always buzzing with laughter and lots of action. The house became too small and a second story was added.

The children seem to have grown up very quickly. On Oct. 20, 1973, Victor married Gwen Baumberger from Edmonton. They have a son Michael and live in Edmonton.

Doreen was married to Sam Towpich on Oct. 29, 1977. They have a daughter Amanda Dawn Emily and are living in Edmonton.

Teddy married Penny Jean Robson on June 4, 1978, and they now live on the Robson farm south of Warburg.

Anita lives in Edmonton, where she is employed. Ernie is farming with his father and Wilfred, Robert and Loretta are still at home attending Warburg schools.

WRITTEN FOR THE 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF WALDEMAR AND OLGA BRANDT

October, 1976 — by Ella Schmidt

In Jan. '49, from Germany a young man came, From across the sea, Waldemar was his name.

He left his parents, sister and brothers

To seek his fortune and new home among others. With his aunt and uncle, and cousins a few

He started to live a life that was new.

He did farm work and mixed mud for the plaster crew

There was so much he had to learn to do.

On the farm there were horses with harness to fit. That he didn't know how, he would never admit.

He placed the harness down on the ground, Led the poor horse across and around.

Then he pushed it and pulled it from every angle, But that harness was still in a hopeless tangle.

The girl cousins once said,

"Wally dig these potatoes to please us".

Soon fork and potatoes were flying in pieces. The plastering gang renamed the crew,

With names that were weird and wonderful too.

There was Schnautzer and Pfeifer, Tool Push and Chief.

Himmler and Molotov, would you believe.

The adventures they had and the tricks that they played -

But you'll have to ask them for all the details.

He missed his homeland - kept buying records and books

But Canadian girls couldn't be beat for their looks. He found that the neighbors down the road just a way-Had a young daughter and he met her one day.

She had hair black as coal and eyes that were grey,

And Wally simply could not stay away.

He no longer had any desire to roam

The Bauman place soon was his second home.

One day he announced with a smile big as life,

"My Olga has agreed to become my dear wife!.

October thirty-first is our wedding day -

You'll be the bridesmaid - and you the organ will play".

Wedding plans were made in a hurry,

And with that, of course, all the work and the worry.

The big day started so sunny and nice,

But before it was over there was wind, snow and ice.

They built a little house of their own

Close beside Olga's old home.

They were happy as any young couple I've seen

And ere long they were blest with a daughter Doreen.

After Victor was born, to the city they did go To make a better living but failed to do so.

When this farm south of Warburg for sale chanced to

Wally moved out there with his family.

Both farming and stuccoing was hard work and slow

But that was the road they had chosen to go. The stork continued his bundles to bring

By the eighth he had very near worn out his wings.

So he folded them up and beat a retreat.

The Brandt family was now fully complete.

They built a new barn, put the dairy cows in it.

With bulk tank and quota and all that goes with it.

The house was so full of kids, music and laughter,

That they literally had to raise the rafters.

To give them more room the roof they did raise,

And added a story to give them more space.

With a vegetable garden, lots of meat, milk and bread,

Wally made sure they were always well fed.

The door is always open, they greet you with delight

They'll share with you a coffee any time of the day or

They'll share with you a coffee any time of the day or night.

Any one who has raised a family of eight,

Well know that things are not always "just great".

There were accidents, illnesses, heartaches and sorrows.

But they trusted God for a brighter tomorrow.

The children grew and began to leave home.

Victor married, two girls on their own

A grandson sure does make you feel older
The farming and stuccoing much harder to

shoulder.

But Wally and Olga just keep on working and grinning But these are the folks that will always be winning.

We're glad to be here to share their delight

And celebrate with the family tonight.

We wish them God's blessing in laughter and tears, And hope we're all back in twenty-five years.

MIKE AND ANNIE CHRUNIK STORY

Submitted by Anne Olczyk and Steve Chrunik

Andrew and Tillie Chrunik and their two sons, Mike and Alex immigrated to Canada in 1911 to



Andrew and Tillie Chrunik, parents of Mike and Alex Chrunik.

Andrew Chrunik's brother-in-law, Harry Koziol in the Glidehurst district southeast of Devon. They stayed until 1912 when the Chruniks took a homestead in the Thorsby district, NW 16-48-1-W5.



Mike, son of Andrew and Tillie Chrunik.



Alex, son of Andrew and Tillie Chrunik.

Their nearest post office was called Dnipro, with Mr. L.C. Fonalds Cieslinski as postmaster. They farmed with their 2 sons until the early thirties. Mrs. Chrunik passed away in 1934 and Mr. Chrunik in 1938. Their oldest son, Mike took over the farm and Alex, the second son farmed east of the home place.

In 1915 Mike, the oldest son, met Anne Feshok

who also came to Canada as a young girl to her Uncle John Babiak's place. Mike and Anne were married on Nov. 6, 1916 and lived on the groom's farm. Both worked very hard trying to make a living with no roads, and the nearest town was Leduc. The trip to Leduc took them 3 days with a team of horses to get their flour, sugar, and other supplies.

Mike and Anne Chrunik were blessed with 6 children; Peter, Steve, John, Anne, Kay, and Sophie,

all born at home.



Mike and Annie Chrunik and sons Peter, 3 yrs. and Steve, 9 months.

In 1957, the Chruniks sold their homesite to Mr. Bernard Green, and moved 1 mile north onto their other farm, the SW 28-48-1-W5.

The oldest son Peter married Anna Kachmar in 1947. They started their married life on a farm south of Thorsby which they later sold, and bought a farm at Two Hills. In the early '70's they moved into the town of Two Hills. Peter had his own orchestra which he started in 1934. He played for many dances and weddings in the Thorsby district. He also played while his wife sang on the Ukrainian Hour on C.F.C.W., Camrose at 9:00 p.m. weekdays. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Chrunik were blessed with 3 children; Joyce, Jerry, and George.

The second son Steve married Tillie Melesko in 1970. In 1963 Steve took over the farming when his dad passed away. Steve is still on the farm and has 1 son

and 2 stepsons; Harvey, Erwin and Eddy.

John Chrunik, the third son married Olga Jakowicki in 1949. They live at Leduc where John works in a car wash. They were blessed with 2 girls and 1 son; Kathy, Sharon and John Jr.

The oldest of the M. Chrunik girls, Anne married Joe Olczyk in 1950. They are living in Edmonton

where Joe owns a trucking business.

Their second daughter Kay married Louis Packolyk in 1954 and is now living at Slave Lake. Louis runs his own trucking business. They were blessed with 3 children; Debbie, Mary-Ann, and Murray.

The youngest of the Chrunik family Sophie

Wright lives in Leduc and has 1 son, Perry.

Anna (Mrs. Mike) Chrunik married William Dohonich in 1971. They both reside at Planeview Manor, Leduc, Alberta.

TOM DEDIO STORY

related by daughter Frances, 1978

I really can't remember dates but I believe my grandparents (with their family) came to Canada from Poland in the early 1900's and settled in the Thorsby District. My father farmed 2 miles north of the Morrowdale School, (NW 20-48-1-W5). I remember my grandpa and grandma lived there in a small house. The large house was built 47 years ago (1931).

My uncles, Joe and Frank Dedio had a butcher shop in Thorsby, and my Uncle Anton had a farm

south of Thorsby.

My father was Thomas Dedio and my mother is Helena (nee Kopaczek). My parents moved 2 miles east of Thorsby around 1945 and farmed there for awhile. Then they moved north of Edmonton and farmed there; finally they made their permanent home in Edmonton. Mother still lives there but Dad passed away about 1963.

There were 8 children in my parent's family namely: Frances, Rose, Stanley, Laura, Sophie, John,

George and Sam.

Frances, that's me, is the oldest, born in 1928. I live in Binscarth, Manitoba and my name is Mrs. Owen Clements. We live on a nice large farm of 8 quarters. We have 4 children, Danny 23, married, farming 9 miles west of Russel, Manitoba. He has 1 girl almost 2 years old and just recently had a baby boy. Corrie, 21, was married but lost her husband, Bill Brown in August 1978. They have one son, 2 years old and Corrie is expecting another child. Darcy, 17, and Ronald, 12, both live at home.

Rose, my sister, lives in Lemburg, Saskatchewan where she and her husband, Arnold Wolf own the International dealership. They have a daughter Sheri. She is a nurse who was married in the summer of 1978.

Brother Stanley lives in Ponoka. He has 3 of his own children: Ricky 23, Shelly 21, and Gregorie 20, as

well as an adopted daughter, Cindy, age 13.

Laura is married to Paul Wolf, brother of Arnold. They have 5 children: Russell 20, is working; Wendy is 18, Ursula 17, Duaine 15 and Grant 10 and all live at home. They live on a beautiful, large farm on No. 1 Highway just outside Wappella, Saskatchewan.

Sophie is married to Ron Anderson and they live in Edmonton. They have 2 children, Charlene, about

17, and a boy, Marlon, 14.

John is married and living in Edmonton. They have 2 children: Camy 14, and Heather 12; both going to school.

George is living in Leduc. He lost his first wife 4 years ago. From this marriage he had 2 girls, Laura 10, and Lisa 8. He has remarried and they just recently had a baby boy.

Sam who is not married lives in Edmonton, where he owns a plumbing business.

THE A. GEBAUER STORY

as related by Arnold and Alvina

We left Nouagrad, Wolhynia, Russia and came to Canada in May, 1927. In June of that year we came to Bruderheim, Alberta. There Arnold worked as a farm laborer threshing, stooking and clearing land. I (Alvina) cleaned homes on Saturdays.



Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Gebauer. Married in 1927.

We came to the Thorsby area (Morrowdale) in the early spring of 1931. We lived with Mr. and Mrs. Nick Martinoff until our own home was built on S.E.-8-48-1 W5. We cleared 30 acres of land and stayed a few years.

We were told that British Columbia was a better place to make a living so we had an auction sale, sold our farm to Mr. Wedman and moved to B.C. But we didn't like it there so we stayed only a few months and came back to Thorsby.

We bought another farm from Mr. Loleit, the S.E.-5-48-1-W5. There were only a few acres cleared and the rest we cleared by axe and hand. We milked about 12 cows by hand, had about 35 chickens, 30 to 80 turkeys and about 20 pigs. All the farm work was done with horses; the hay was made by hand. Some years we didn't have enough hay and had to buy some. Once in a while we had some grain to sell.

Arnold usually worked with a threshing outfit for the whole season. One fall he worked in the Killam area for 6 weeks

Arnold, Robert Grohn and Rudolf Schmidt sawed logs by hand. That is how the Morrowdale Church was built, and all our buildings were built the same way. We dug our well by hand — about 20 feet deep and it had lots of water. It is still in use today.

Elsie Martinoff and I went blueberry picking quite often together. Many of the berries were made into fruit and jam, any surplus was sold for 7¢ a pound.

When farming became more mechanized we decided to rent out the land rather than start buying a lot of machinery. Wm. Rasch rented it for 5 years. In 1964 we sold the farm to George Boss. We had a farm auction sale and bought a lot in Thorsby and had a house built on it. We stayed with Jean and Harold Kruger and their family for several months until our house was completed.

We enjoyed our 3 years in Thorsby, then we decided to sell the house and move to Edmonton. Although we lived there for 7 years we still liked the farm best. So we bought a trailer and moved it to Harold Kruger's farm in 1974.

A year or so after we moved into the trailer (July 1975). Arnold suffered a stroke and has been hospitalized ever since. At present he is in the Good Samaritan Hospital in Edmonton. I spend most of my time in Edmonton so I can be near him. I come back to our trailer at least once a month and spend several days there. We plan to keep the trailer so we always have a home on the farm to come back to.

ADOLPH GROHN

by Grandson Waldemar Brandt

Adolph Grohn was born in Russia in 1879. He was married there to Maria Drews and they had a family of 7, 3 boys and 4 girls. Three of the children reside in Canada, the others remained in Russia but only one of these is still living.



Adolph Grohn at his home in Warburg, 1954.

He emigrated alone, to the U.S.A. about 1912. He worked as a carpenter in various parts of the U.S. and in Milwaukee he worked in the breweries. In 1928 he immigrated to Alberta and lived in the Thorsby-Warburg area. He took up a homestead in the Morrowdale district NE 7-48-1-W5. His son Robert and daughter Erna came over from Russia and took up homesteads as well. My grandfather was never able to

bring my grandmother to Canada.

His daughter, Erna was married in Russia to Rudolf Schmidt and they raised a family of 5 children-Art, Linda (Krueger), Emma (Provence), Ella (Schmidt), and Sieghard. His son, Robert, was married to Ruth Klemky and they raised a family of 4; Ben, Eric, Erna and Arnold.

Robet Grohn was killed in an accident on Dec. 17,

1946.

Adolph Grohn's second oldest daughter, Elsa was married to Herman Brandt. They had 6 children; Waldemar, Marguerete, Erna, Alex, Arthur and Erwin. The older sons came to Alberta earlier and the rest of the family came about 1960. The Brandts live in Edmonton and all the boys live in Alberta. The daughters both died in Europe.

Grandfather Grohn moved off his homestead in Morrowdale and went to Warburg to live. He made his living as a carpenter until he got a pension. As a carpenter he built a fair number of houses in the Thorsby-Warburg area. He helped to build St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Morrowdale and the Trinity Lutheran Church in Warburg. He spent a fair bit of time in the Warburg Hotel with his cronies.

His grandson, Waldemar Brandt moved to Warburg in 1954, after buying Vernon Ladd's farm. He still resides there.

Adolph Grohn died in the fall of 1956 and is buried in the Morrowdale cemetery.

BEN GROHN FAMILY

by Ben Grohn

I was born Nov. 20, 1934, at my grandparents, the Klemkeys, north of Thorsby, which is known as the Fruitland area. I went to school at Morrowdale which is approximately 9 miles south west of Thorsby. We lived on a farm 1 mile south of the Morrowdale School.

The most tragic thing in my lifetime was the death of my father. He was killed on Dec. 17, 1946. That morning he went to Edmonton with a local trucker and that was the last time we saw him alive. The truck, between Leduc and Calmar, upset and fell on top of him. My father was well-known. There were, I was told, 80 cars at the funeral. This left myself, age 12, Eric age 11, Erna age 10 and Arnold age 7 months. We had also lost a baby sister some years before that.

I think back to the many people we used to visit often. Horses were our means of travel as well as on foot. Nowadays we don't get to visit very much, even if we do drive fast cars.

On Aug. 14, 1947 our mother Ruth, married Ferdinand Gunsch who was a well-driller. People that I have met as of late told me he drilled some darn good water wells.

Very bad roads south of Morrowdale and poor crops, helped us decide to move 3½ miles north of



Ben and Donna Grohn and family, Robbie, Wendy and Shelly.

Thorsby onto the Fred Gunsch farm.

My teacher at Morrowdale was Tom Wells. He had the best part of his right-hand fingers cut off, but I have yet to find a man that could write as nicely as he could, and he could use the strap too. I know! After the move to Thorsby I went to a school known as Telfordville School. Why it was named that I'll never know because it wasn't that close to Telfordville. Many a day we walked or used a buggy or cutter in winter. The horse we used was very good with us kids and tried to run away only a few times.

At 15, I quit school and stayed on the farm until 1953 when I went to work at Alder Flats - the Coleman Kiss Lumber Mill. First I was a tail edger, and later I was the bull cook. My wages at the mill were 80¢ an hour, 10 hours a day for 6 days a week. In 1955 I went to Ponoka and worked as a carpenter's helper at \$1.10 per hour and a few months later I left for Manning. I worked on a school there. In 1956, on Section One, which was the C.N.R. station area, I chipped ice from the tracks. In May of 1956 I went to work for Can West Seed as a Mill Operator. In 1960 I became a carpenter's apprentice at \$1.27 ½ per hour. This was 50% of what the carpenters got. Four years later I was a full-fledged carpenter. I worked on some buildings such as the horse barns at the exhibition grounds in Edmonton. I also helped put up the arch at the exhibition grounds. I worked on the 3-wing Royal Alexandra Hospital, the St. Joseph's Catholic Church, the Avord Arms Apts, the Edmonton Library, and many more.

In 1961 at my cousin's wedding I met my wife-to-be. She was Deanna Kause of Stony Plain. In 1963 we were married and on June 20, 1966 our one and only son, Robert, was born. Wendy was born at Drayton Valley in 1969. In 1972 Shelly was our final effort.

Some of my community efforts were baseball president, past president, and secretary for 10 years;

Thorsby and District Fish and Game Association for 10 years of which I was secretary-treasurer, newsletter editor twice, and president for 21/2 years. I was also zone 3 secretary for 2 years and chairman for 2 years. I was Chamber of Commerce president for 2 years. I even tried my hand at Village Council. I wanted to try being the mayor but everybody said, "Why bother, since you're running the town already!" One of the rewarding feats I will always remember is B.E.G. Construction that built the 2-storey front end to the Warburg Arena. The "B" was me, the "E" was Ed Kurley, and the "G" was Gordon Shnick. Ed and I did the work while Gordon supplied the material. Of course there were other people that helped. Freda Quesnel did much to help raise funds for this project. In 1977, Wetaskiwin was in need of a plant manager. I applied for the job and got it. Before I left Warburg, I resigned from 12 positions.

My Warburg journey had come about when, in Sept. of 1966, I had heard from some one saying at Can West, that the Warburg Seed Plant was advertising for a seed plant manager. Well, I had no idea what a Co-op Seed Plant was all about. Sure, I knew something about seed cleaning, but managing one? Anyway, I saw the ad in the Journal several times and hadn't really thought that much about it. But, I did apply and landed the job.

ERIC GROHN FAMILY

by Eric & Herta

Grandpa Adolph Grohn was born on June 4, 1878 in Wolhynia, Russia. He immigrated to the United States in 1912, leaving his wife behind with the intent of sending for her when he found a place and made enough money to send for her and their children. For unknown reasons, Grandma never did immigrate.

My father, Robert Grohn, born Sept. 1900, immigrated to Canada in 1927. That same year, Grandfather came to Canada from the United States



Adolph Grohn and his son Robert Grohn.

and joined his son.

Grandfather bought a farm by Morrowdale School which is now known as the Herb Rasch farm. My father bought the farm south of Grandpa's, which is now owned by Gerhard Neuman, (SE 7-48-1-W5).

In Jan. 1934 my father, Robert Grohn, married Ruth Klemky. They were blessed with four children. Benjamin was born in 1934 in Nov., Eric was born in Nov. 1935, Erna was born in Sept. 1936, and Arnold in May, 1946.

Times were tough; my father farmed about 100 acres with horses, and cut grain and hay, also with horses. About 10 cows were milked by hand. Milk was separated and cream was sold between \$5-\$10 per 5 gallons. We had no electricity, so coal oil lamps were used for light.

A trip to Thorsby for a few groceries was a most happy occasion for us. Sometimes Mom or Dad gave us 15¢. Then we could buy a chocolate bar and a bottle of pop.



L. to R.: Donna, Eric, Herta (mother), Roy. Centre: Richard and twins

Anna and Arlin.

In Dec. 1946 my father was killed in a truck accident, he was a passenger in a cattle truck. In Aug. 1947 my mother married Ferdinand Gunsch. This seemed to be a big change in our lives and a little hard to accept a new parent, but things worked out quite well. In 1955 my sister, Erna married John Begalke. In Nov. 1956 Grandfather Adolph Grohn passed away. In 1963 Benjamin married Deanna Kause.

In 1957 I started to farm on my own, renting the Alex Yachimec farm 2 miles north, 1 mile east, and 4 miles north of Thorsby. Cooking meals, washing dishes and floors, feeding cattle and pigs and milking cows; those were my bachelor days.

On June 15, 1962 Herta Zierath and I were married. In 1964 we were blessed with a daughter, Donna, and in 1965 with a son, Roy. We decided to make a change, so in 1967 we sold our livestock and moved to Leduc, where I worked as elevator manager

for Pioneer Grain Co. In 1968 Richard was born. In 1970 we decided to leave Leduc and moved to the George Boss farm, south-west of Thorsby.

In 1971 we built a home on land previously purchased. It was located 11 miles south of Thorsby. During 1970-1973 I worked as elevator manager in Thorsby for Pioneer Grain Co.

On Dec. 20, 1972, twins - Arlin and Anna were born. They were tiny, a little sensitive, but otherwise healthy.

We purchased more land in the meantime and were also renting other land. The 3 older children, Donna, Roy and Richard started school in Thorsby. Since our family had increased and our farming needed more room for expansion, we decided to sell our home and land and build on a new location on half a section of land which is located 5½ miles south of Sunnybrook. Here was a new farm without buildings or electricity.

Upon our move to NE 3-48-2-W5, the children attended Warburg School. Fortunately a well with plenty of water was drilled, without trouble. Power was put in 3 months later. We lived in a garage which was hurriedly constructed. About 18 months later our new home was completed enough to occupy. For our cattle, 4 to 5 miles of new fences were constructed, old fences that were there needed a lot of repair. So far the farming has gone on quite well and we are now residing in comfort.

History of Herta Zierath - She was born in May, 1944 in Poland. Her family immigrated to Canada in 1953. They lived in Kelowna, B.C. In 1961 Herta came to Thorsby. For a few months she stayed with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Art Schmidt. She found employment in Leduc and worked in the Imperial Cafe and Leduc Bakery until her marriage to me in 1962.

EWALD HAAK STORY

by step-niece Ellienora Rasch

Ewald Haak was born Aug. 22, 1909 in Novagrad Wolynski, Wolhynia, Russia. Ewald (my step uncle) and my mother Elsa Kurtz were sent to Canada by his Uncle Julius Haak on March 29, 1928 on the ship S.S. Baltonia. From Riga to London it took four days and then they left London on the S.S. Mountroyal to Canada. The journey lasted another eight days. They arrived in Canada at Halifax on Apr. 10, 1928, leaving Halifax for Frobisher, Saskatchewan by train. He started to work as a farm laborer for Mr. Leo Kolke and family on May 1. He was employed there until 1931.

When he left there at the end of Feb., he came to live with his step sister Elsa Martinoff (nee Kurtz). He stayed with her and her family until the end of Mar. 1936. While he was there he helped with making hay and many other farm chores. For a pastime as a hobby



Ewald Haak beside his first home in 1951.

he would play the mandolin accompanying Pete Chrunik who played violin at local house parties.

It was the beginning of Apr. 1936 when he decided to go to British Columbia with Albert Rinas to find work there. He found work on a dairy farm and was employed there for one year. The rest of the time he explored the Vancouver area.

In 1938 he came back to Thorsby again and stayed with his step-sister Elsa until 1940. That was when he had the opportunity to buy a quarter section of land from the C.P.R. (NE 31-47-1-W5). It was all bush and he cleared 79 acres of land by axe and the other 35 acres were done by caterpillar.

Several farmers from the area namely Arnold Gebauer, David and Emil Paul, Robert Grohn, as well as Ewald went to work in the Killam area one fall. He returned there for the next two years. After that he worked in the Thorsby area stooking and threshing for several months every year. To meet farm expenses, he raised a lot of hogs. At one time he had a herd of 300 hogs. To farm his land, he bought 5 work horses; later he sold them and bought a tractor.

Ewald Haak still lives on his farm; he has no livestock, and he does a little grain farming himself but all his hay land is rented to a neighbor.

MICHAEL HEBNER STORY

By Arthur Hebner

The Michael Hebner family came from Russia in 1913. Michael and his wife Augusta, their 2 sons and 2 daughters came to the Leduc district and made their first home with relatives. After the end of World War I the youngest daughter Emma died, but 3 more daughters were born in Canada.

After a few years in the Leduc district they moved to the Conjuring Creek district and in 1929 they bought a quarter of land from the Hudson Bay Co. in the Morrowdale district.

To reach this farm of solid bush, a team of horses and a wagon were needed. The trip was 18 miles one way and some of it was just trails through bush and



Randy, Arthur and Della Hebner, 1978.

swamp. The bush had to be cleared by hand and then broken by horses, or some was done by old steel-wheel tractors. With no fences and money very hard to come by, some of the improvements and plans had to be put off for a later date.

The early years on this farm were exciting, as wild game and birds were plentiful. On many occasions a herd of deer numbering 6 to 12 could be seen grazing with no fear of man.

With the depression years coming closer and closer, jobs away from the farm were not available except in sawmills and fishing in winter on Pigeon Lake. The fishing was poor. With a 100 yard net and a \$5.00 license, it took 2 weeks to earn enough to get your money back. Sometimes it was very cold and I remember once it was 50 degrees below. We would put the nets in one day and the next day we would pull them out, hoping for a good catch of fish in them.

Working in the Morrow's Lumber Mill was a little better. For a 10 hour day of work we received 50¢ and our room and board.

With little or no money in those years, the country spirit was very much alive. The old and young enjoyed sports, games and music. I took part in many community events and sang and played my guitar which is now 60 years old. I sang at many Christmas concerts and house parties during the years. Now my son joins me in singing and playing at weddings, parties and church programs.

My parents have both passed away. My brother and sisters are all living, although I am the only one in this district. Emil and his wife Bertha are retired now and live in Leduc. Adina Hoffman, my oldest sister, and her husband William are retired and living in Edmonton. Theresa Henschell and husband Ed are living in Edmonton. Ella Wedman and my youngest sister Adeline Lindberg are also living in Edmonton. I'm still on the family farm in the Morrowdale district with my wife, Della, and son Randy.

This farm land wasn't very good the first years it was farmed. The soil was considered to be sour and there were many rocks on it. Through the years fertilizers and manure have been applied to it, and now the yield is much improved. It is our hope, that the farm they started out with in this community will remain in the Hebner family for years to come

through their grandson, Randy Hebner.

Although times have changed, so have the people. The closing of country schools and churches, and the desire to move to larger centres has almost wiped out the country spirit which once was so great.

A person often hears of the "good old days." There were complaints then as now, but never have I heard of so much dissatisfaction as you can hear now, when times are so good.

MILLIE WURBAN, HELM, KELSEY AND FAMILY

by Millie Kelsey

I (Millie) married Edward (Ed) Helm, son of Alex and Annie Helm of Calgary, Alberta on December 6, 1946 and we lived in Calgary, until the following summer. We moved a small house across the road from Daniel Wurbans on the way to Telfordville, and Ed found employment on an oil rig north of Telfordville. He also worked for Cedric and Junie Dolling, putting some shelves in the Telfordville store Dollings owned. The oil rig company moved to Red Deer but Ed didn't want to leave his family behind. Craig, born October 21, 1947 in Edmonton, was a baby then, so we moved to Calmar and he worked on rigs in the Calmar and Devon area. When work wasn't available, we moved back to Calgary. Ed worked at the CPR Round House and we lived in the Ogden district in Calgary. Jeffrey was born in Calgary on December 7, 1949. In the spring of 1950, work was available on the rigs again so we moved to Leduc. Virginia was born in Edmonton on July 20, 1951. We moved to the Morrowdale district that summer on section 6-48-1-W5.

Edward Helm died on February 14, 1952. I moved in with my folks in Telfordville, keeping the farm. In the fall I purchased a house in Edmonton and the children and I lived there for a number of years.

I married Clarence Fred Kelsey, better known as Fred, formerly of Gunn, Alberta, on December 10, 1954. Fred is the son of Clara and Timothy Kelsey.

All 3 of us (Millie, Edward, Fred) were in the Armed Forces. After I left the Navy, I took up



Millie Helm with son Craig.

practical nursing in Calgary, continuing after my first marriage.

Fred and I moved back to the farm and rented out the house in Edmonton, selling it later. Clifford was born in Edmonton on April 28, 1955. Fred worked for Standard Iron in Edmonton. He stayed in Edmonton and at the farm.

The farm was raw land and had to be developed. Fred purchased a 60 Gas Caterpillar and brush cutter, and cleared the first 10 acres. We also purchased a one-bottom breaking plow. The rock and root-picking was hard work. We bought a Massey Pacemaker tractor from Steve Dool and harvested our first crop with a binder pulled by a tractor. A threshing crew came and did the threshing that fall. More land was broken as years went by, with a lot of hard labour. As the 4 children grew, they helped with farming chores and field work.

Fred worked at construction in Edmonton to help keep the farm going and tried to catch up with mixed farming on weekends.

Our first combine was a pull-type John Deere. We didn't do any farming with horses except for skidding logs when we had lumber sawn just north of the yard site. Bob Grant brought the saw mill in to saw the logs into lumber. At that time we built several granaries and added on to the small house. We sold the rest of the lumber at approximately \$25.00 M board feet for extra income.

Our first barn was a log building used for cattle. It was later used for a hog barn until the present hog barn was built in the fall and winter of 1973-74. Our first range cattle shed was built with rails and straw bales. This barn worked until we built a loafing barn in 1969.

We lived and raised our children in the old house until they were all married. In July, 1977 we started building a new house. We worked on it during the winter and moved in on April 1, 1978.

Our children's education was important to them and to us. Craig attended Telfordville, Edmonton, Morrowdale, and Thorsby. Jeffrey attended Edmonton, Morrowdale and Thorsby. Virginia and Clifford attended Thorsby Schools.

Jeffrey Virgil married Kathryn Kania, daughter of Lydia and Ed Kania of Vallican, B.C. on August 12, 1972. They have a daughter, Lori-Ann Kathryn, and a son, Jeffery Fred Edward. Lori-Ann attends Thorsby school.

Jeffrey purchased the southeast quarter from his parents in 1976 and had their new three-bedroom house built by Crasan Holdings Ltd. They moved into their new home in early spring, 1977. Jeffrey had more land cleared and broken last year. And in 1978, he sowed his first crop. Due to such a wet fall, he is hoping he can still get his crop harvested in the spring of 1979 which is the hope of all his neighbors. They also had some fencing done and have a few head of cattle. Jeffrey still works for Ecco Heating in Edmonton, and commutes every day.

Craig Owen married Sandra Lennie (nee Malofe), daughter of Mary and George Malofe who live in Fort McMurray now. They have a daughter, Rachele and a son Daniel. Their children attend school in Thorsby. Craig and Sandra lived in Edmonton for awhile, and then purchased the lots and a double-side trailer from M. Gellert and moved to Thorsby. They opened Village Hair, a family hair-styling salon with Sandra managing it. Unfortunately, due to reconstruction of



Millie and Fred Kelsey farm with Virginia, Jeffrey, Craig and Fred holding Clifford.



Craig Helm family: Craig, Sandra, Rachele, and Daniel.



Jeffrey and Kathy Helm with children Jeffrey and Lori-Ann.



1977, Roger and Virginia Olson with daughter Candice.



Clifford and Corrine Kelsey.

the building, they were forced to close their doors and could not find another suitable location for their shop. They are continuing at present with building contracting, a branch of Crasan Holdings Ltd. Craig is also a journeyman sheet metal craftsman.

Virginia Nancy married Roger Olson, of the Glen Park district, on April 14, 1973. Roger is the second son of William and Elnora Olson. They have made their home in the town of Calmar and have a daughter, Candice Nancy.

Clifford Neil married Corinne Branton, also from the Morrowdale district, on October 11, 1975. Corinne is the third child of Kenneth and Lois Branton. They have made their home in Edmonton where they both have fine jobs. However, they are weekend horse farmers, as they have horses on our farm.

R. DALE KNULL AND FAMILY

submitted by Sharon Knull

Fifteen years ago Dale purchased the NW 36-47-2 W5, from Mr. Percy Killaly. He proceeded to brush more of the quarter section and eventually seeded it to pasture.

In June of 1973, we purchased the N½ 12-48-2 W5 from Mr. E. Gunsch. The land was broken as it now lies, but there were no buildings nor fences. The late summer and fall of 1973 were very wet with heavy rains. We were attempting to build a home and corrals, with hopes of moving into the place before Christmas. The powere was delayed and we were unable to inhabit our new but unfinished house until January the 30th of 1974. Our family of 2 girls and 1 boy (Pamela now age 12, Penny Lynn now age 10 and Stacy now age 8) moved from the Pipestone community district and lived comfortably but crudely in the basement for the first 9 months. Dale, with the help of many relatives and friends, finished the house and all the other necessary farm buildings. Meanwhile I went to work in Thorsby and met many new people.

The spring of 1974 brought a heavy run off of water from the unusual amount of winter snowfall. The roads were washed out in several places and our road was no exception. The road to the north of our

drive way was the first to wash away. We were still able to get out via the south for a couple of days until it too was washed away. Dale built a walking bridge over the north gap so our children were able to meet the school bus. It was approximately 6 feet deep and the planks used were 16 feet in length. Needless to say it was dangerous for adults, let alone children. The south wash-out wasn't nearly as deep nor as wide, and we were able to use heavy planks (2x8) to get the car, tractor and wagon, across. This was necessary to use every day to haul the feed to our cattle that were already over on the aforementioned pasture quarter. With the many road repairs needed in the area, it was almost 2 weeks before we could appreciate ours.

In 1976 we joined the Morrowdale community club, of which we are still members. We have met many wonderful friends and neighbors in the area and enjoy our relationship in the community.

WILLIAM KOPERSKI FAMILY

by Joe Koperski

Salwina Wargocka was born on Feb. 15, 1903 on a farm near Warsaw, Poland. Wojeich (William) Koperski was born on April 17, 1903, also on a farm near Warsaw. They met at a County church picnic in 1926 and were married in Feb. 1929 and lived in Poland for a few months. During this time they heard



Wojeich (William) Koperski, passport picture 1929.



Salwina Koperski, passport picture 1929.

many rumors of the Promised Land "Canada". In early May, 1929 they boarded a train in Warsaw and travelled to Gdansk, Poland where they boarded a small ship for transportation across the Baltic Sea to England. Here again they boarded a train and travelled across England to another port to board a larger ship for the journey across the Atlantic Ocean to Canada.

After being at sea for about 13 days, they arrived at Canada's Great Lakes port, where, along with most of the other passengers, they were escorted to a train station and re-directed to Edmonton, Alberta. The journey from the Great Lakes to Edmonton took about 4 days.

Upon arriving in Edmonton, they were sent, along with the rest of the passengers, to a rooming house in

Leduc, Alberta, where most of the new immigrants stayed. From this rooming house, most of the immigrants would either go out looking for jobs or else the farmers would come looking for people to work on the farms. The work most of the time was hard and the pay was very poor.

While staying at the rooming house, Mr. Pankewicz, a farmer from the Sunnybrook area, came looking for someone to help clear land by cutting down trees, picking roots, and picking rocks. The Koperskis stayed at the Pankewicz homestead for 6 weeks helping to clear land along with Ludwig Stanscyk, for a mere \$2.75 a week.

After finishing this job, they moved to the Krueger homestead south of Calmar where again they cleared land, stooked, threshed, and did other chores. Later they moved to a house on a farm owned by a Mr. Borys, from where they worked out clearing land for different farmers in the Calmar area. Some of these farmers were: Kunkels, Spilaks, Tomaszeskis, Lickaczs, Kruegers, and Oswalds.

While living on the Borys farm for 2 years and working for farmers in the surrounding area, they managed to accumulate \$160.00 for a down payment on the purchase of a C.P.R. ½ section of land, 6 miles south and $3\frac{1}{2}$ west of Thorsby in the district which became known as Morrowdale.

Before moving out to the homestead in 1931, they had to build a roof over their heads. They built a one-room log cabin with the help of Mr. Grohn, Mr. Hebner, and Mr. Rinas, who were neighbors.

The only road to the place was a bush trail that ran through the property and ended at the sawmill that was located on government land 1 mile south. The sawmill was operated by a Mr. Morrow from whose name was derived the district to be known as "Morrowdale".

During the first year on the farm they cleared 14 acres of land by hand, working from dawn to dusk. The land was plowed by Mike Kuzio and prepared for seeding. The first crop of wheat sold for 17¢ a bushel.

They bought their first 3 cows for prices of \$52.00, \$50.00, and \$36.00. Later the prices of cows dropped to as low as \$4.00 each. Chickens were started by getting setting hens and eggs from Kunkels, Tomaszeskis, Kruegers and Borys'. Pigs were started by getting a little piglet from the Krueger family and later, another piglet was bought for \$2.00. Horses were bought the following year for \$36.00 and \$26.00 each. One of the horses was later sold for \$2.00 to a fox ranch due to an illness. The plowing of the field, seeding, bindering and other heavy work was done by a team of horses, therefore, they were the most valuable animals on the farm.

The following year about 2 acres of potatoes were planted which were used as the main source of food for the hogs, which were sold to purchase the first wagon. It took 12 hogs to purchase the wagon.

Born were 9 children, 6 girls and 3 boys, of which 5 of the girls passed away at birth or shortly after birth.

The only remaining girl, Mary, would have passed away also if she had not been left in the General



Koperski family, L. to R.: William, Leona, Mrs. Pletnik (Leona's mother), Salwina, Connie, Casey, and John.

Hospital for 7 months in order to receive proper care. All the other girls would probably still be alive today if they could have received hospital care.

Casey Koperski, the oldest, was born on March 15, 1931. He attended Morrowdale School and later Thorsby High School. While going to school in Thorsby he worked part time, first at Bing's Cafe and later at Beaver Lumber. Still later he became Branch Manager of the Beaver Lumber Store and after a few years, he was transferred to St. Paul, where he remained the rest of his life. Casey married Leona Pletnek of the Glen Park district and had one son Kenneth, and one daughter Sandra. He was an avid sportsman who enjoyed curling, baseball and mostly hunting. Casey passed away on Nov. 18, 1973 at the age of 42 years after suffering a heart attack on a hunting trip in the Lodgepole area.

John Koperski, the second oldest, was born on Sept. 7, 1933 and attended school at Morrowdale. At a young age he left home in search of a job and ended up in British Columbia employed as a tree topper at a logging camp. There was the oil boom in the Leduc area and he ended up working in the oilfield for a number of years. Later he moved to Edmonton where he was employed in the construction industry. He was a member of a crew of men that put up the first set of homes for the natives in Inuvik, N.W.T. John married Connie Semograd of the Innisfree district and they have 3 sons, Richard, Barry, and John Jr. John is presently living and working in Edmonton.

Mary, was born on July 5, 1943. She attended Morrowdale School and Thorsby High School. Later





Jim and Mary (Koperski) Henderson.



Joe and Donna Koperski at their wedding, Sept. 12, 1969.

she went to Edmonton where she was employed as a waitress. Later she worked at the International Airpot, Beaver Lumber and now at Union Tractor. Mary married James Henderson from Winnipeg whom she met while working at the airport. He is a Traffic Agent for Canadian Pacific Airlines. They had 3 sons and 1 daughter Roger, Allen, Patrician and Scott. Roger passed away on July 25, 1976 as the result of a traffic accident at Redwater, Alberta.

Joe Koperski, the youngest was born on July 23, 1945. He attended Morrowdale School and then Thorsby High School from which he graduated in June 1966. Later he went to Edmonton and took a Business Course at Alberta College. In July, 1967 he went to work for Westeel-Rosco Ltd. where he has been employed ever since. He is an avid sportsman who enjoys curling and baseball and played on the Thorsby Canucks baseball team for a number of years. Joe married Donna Schmidek of the Thorsby district, lives in Edmonton and they have 2 daughters, Shauna and Karen.

Wojeich Koperski passed away on April 13, 1974 at the age of 71.

Salwina Koperski still owns the farm and presently lives in Edmonton at the Villa Maria - Polish Canadian Senior Citizen's Home.

ARNOLD AND LINDA KRUEGER

by Arnold Krueger

I was born when my parents were making their move to Calmar. Since there was no house on the land to which they were heading, they decided to stay at my uncle's place, Fred Kunkel. Here, on March 27, 1922, in this single-room log shack covered by a sod roof, I was born. Mrs. Erikson was the midwife in this area for many years.

I lived in the Calmar area until I was 12 years old. Then in 1934 we moved to a farm in the Thorsby area. There was no school in the Morrowdale district at this time so I had to return to Calmar to my uncle's place to

continue school.

At the age of 14, I helped Dad in the bush, cutting logs for lumber and a lot of tamarack posts. This material was used in trade for grain and money.

For enjoyment, I spent a lot of time trapping and hunting rabbits, squirrels, coyotes, weasels, prairie chickens and grouse. Still being the sportsman I am, I can't imagine ever shooting as much game now with my gun as I did then with my sling shot.

I began working away from home at the age of 18 for a mason. Six years later on Nov. 10, 1944, I married the mason's daughter, Linda Schmidt. Linda was born in Barashi, Russia on Sept. 25, 1926. She immigrated to Canada with her parents in 1928. Bruderheim was where she spent her first years in Canada, and then in 1931 she moved to the Morrowdale district. Here she attended Morrowdale School.



Rudolph and Erna Schmidt in 1940. Parents of Linda Krueger.

We settled on a farm in the Morrowdale district. There we built our first home and buildings that were needed. Back in 1942, I had purchased a sawmill so I was able to saw most of the lumber for our farm. We were unable to locate water on the yard, so we had to dig a well a quarter mile away. This made it hard because we had to carry it up that hill to the yard. We led all the livestock to the water since there were no fences. In the winter we melted snow for the animal's water and also for washing clothes.

There we lived for 4 years until February 1949. We then had an auction sale selling all the livestock and renting out the land. We then moved to Vancouver with our 2 sons, Henry and Harvey. Here I went into the construction work. In May 1950 we returned to farming once more. In 1951, our third son Robert was born. We had no electricity until 1954. We then bought some modern appliances.

In those days there was a lot more walking done. Our two oldest sons had a $3\frac{1}{2}$ mile walk to the Centre Lodge School. Even in bad weather they would venture out.

It was a 3-mile walk to the St. Stephen's Lutheran Church of which we were members. There they had a band in which we both played the trumpet. Linda also played the pump organ for the church services.

We lived in our first house until 1955 when more room was needed. In 1955 Carol was born. We then



Family of Arnold and Linda Krueger. L. to R.: Harvey and his wife Audrey Krueger, Henry and his wife Rose Krueger, Larry Miller and his wife Carol (Krueger), Crystal (Lange) and her husband Robert Krueger, Linda (mother) daughter Norma, Arnold (father) and daughter Leona Krueger.

started our new house, building it ourselves, and moved in November 1956. In 1959 Leona was born and Norma in 1962, completing our family of 3 boys and 3 girls.

With the family on the farm I continued in construction and farming until 1962. In that year we began a dairy operation and continued until 1972, when we incorporated into a company, Arlin Farms Ltd. Two of our sons then took over the management.

We built our third home in 1973 on an acreage at Arlin Farms. My activities include serving on church council, curling, recreation board, Interfaith council of churches, Fish & Game, and painting. We had 3 of our children marry in 1975. Henry married Rose Issler, February 14, Harvey married Audrey Doidge, May 24, and Carol married Larry Miller, November 7. Then the following year Robert married Crystal Lange on July 30. We now enjoy 5 grandchildren, Joyce, Darrin, Greg, Heather and Bryce.

I, now Grandpa, am still enjoying my work in carpentry and Grandma, well, she keeps busy with many odd jobs.

THE HAROLD KRUGER FAMILY

by Harold and Jean Kruger

In July, 1950 — Harold Kruger and Jean Martinoff were united in marriage. Harold owned a farm SW-34-47-1 W5, which had no buildings on it, so our first home was a two-room log house located on another quarter (SW-8-48-1 W5). We lived there for 2½ years. When we started our new life together, we had 5 cows, 1 sow and 5 little pigs, and 50 chickens.

In the spring of 1951 our first child Gladys was born, followed by Jim a year later in July, 1952.



Wedding of Jean and Harold Kruger on July 5, 1950.

We made our living from the small number of livestock we had and from the sawmill. Harold sawed lumber for the neighbors and did this for 18 years. He then sold the mill to his brother Arnold.

We bought 80 acres from Harold's folks — the S½ of NW-4-48-1 W5. There were 23 acres cleared and we cleared some more land so that we could start to build. In the summer of 1953 we built a barn and a house and drilled a well. We moved to our new place in Nov.

We bought another quarter of land SW-4-48-1 W5. This farm had only 20 acres cleared and we spent many days of hard labor clearing the rest of it. In 1955, Harold bought a caterpillar in partnership with his brother-in-law, Albert Rasch. This Cat was used for some of the land clearing and the rest of the labor was hired. The roots were picked by hand and that's where all the hard work came in. We had the Cat for 2 years then traded it to Art Schmidt for a threshing machine. Harold had this machine for 5 years doing custom work for the neighbors. Then it was traded for a combine.

In the fall of 1958, Debra was born. A year later we



Barn and dairy cows on the farm of Harold and Jean Kruger.

started to build a new and bigger house since the family was getting larger. In 1960 we moved into our new house which we still live in today.

In 1965 we decided to increase our dairy herd and sold all but 8 cows. Harold went to work for Leduc Construction driving a Cat. Later he drove a Cat for John Hakstol. Slowly, we built up our herd and started dairying again.

In June, 1971 our daughter, Gladys, married Reuben Gunsch of Thorsby. Reuben is basically self-employed, but is presently working for Nabor's Drilling. They are living on the Gunsch home place. Gladys is a full time mother and homemaker with 3 children to care for — Jason, Candace and Brent.

In 1975, we celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary. In 1977 Jim married Janice Martschiniak of R.R. 2 Millet. They built a new house on their farm (SW-34-47-1-W5). There are 115 acres of land cleared and they have 12 head of beef cattle. Jim is employed at Nisku while Janice works at Vern Muth Sales.

Debra was married, in Sept. 1978, to Allan Hennes of Devon. They live in Edmonton where Debra is employed. Allan is employed at Nisku.

Our youngest son Lyle, who was born in the spring



Wedding of Debra Kruger and Alan Hennes, 1978. L. to R.: Reuben Gunsch holding son Brent, his wife Gladys, James Kruger and wife Janice, Alan and Debra, Jean and Harold (parents) Lyle Kruger and front, Candace and Jason Gunsch.

of 1964, lives at home and is taking grade 9 in Thorsby.

We plan to continue operating the dairy and farming the land as long as our health permits. We also think this community will be a good place to spend our retirement years.

WILHELM AND CHRISTINE KRUEGER

Wilhelm was born on January 10, 1896 at Josefinie Grodkw, Poland. His parents were Gottfried and Caroline (nee Marks). He immigrated to Germany and lived there a while before news from a relative got him interested in coming to Canada. In the spring of 1913, he landed in Halifax after a lengthy ship ride and moved on west to Edmonton. He worked at Gainers Meat Plant and in the Edmonton area from 1911-1918. It was here, in 1916, that he met Christine Kunkel. Her parents, August and Juliana (nee Wedman), had homesteaded in the Breton area earlier. Christine was born December 17, 1895 in Wandawola, Russia.



Mr. and Mrs. Wilhem Kruger and their first 3 sons, taken in 1922.
Wilhem is holding Arnold, Arthur is standing beside him and Alfred is
in the background beside his mother Christine.

On November 21, 1917 they were married in Strathcona (South Edmonton) by Pastor Wahl. Here their first son Arthur was born. In 1918 they moved to Hay Lakes where they rented a farm and began farming. Here their second son Alfred was born in

1920. In search for better soil they headed for Calmar. On the way, their third son, Arnold was born in 1922. Tired of renting land, they decided to buy a quarter 2 miles south of Calmar. Here their family increased. Born to them was Harold, Esther, Agnes, Willie and Gordon. Unable to make payments due to hail, frost and the poor price of grain, they decided to buy cheaper land in the Thorsby area. In 1932 they purchased a half-section of land, 7 miles south and 2 miles west of Thorsby. For 2 years, with horse and buggy, they travelled back and forth those 20 miles getting the land and yard ready for them to move. They built their own house, barns, and other buildings, dug wells and cleared land.

On April 10, 1934 they moved out to their new farm. It was quite a move. There were 6 or more wagons carrying young calves, pigs and the household furniture, and their one pony and the older boys walked along. Since trucking of the cattle was not possible, they had to be herded the whole way. Their rest stop was at the popular Anderson Store at, (then called) Buford. After having started at daybreak, they arrived at the new farm by dark. Also in their caravan of belongings came a new Essex car. They were using it in Calmar but it had to be pulled in by a team of horses because of poor roads. It was parked from 1934 to 1939. Here they farmed with several teams of horses until the fall of 1939 when they purchased their first tractor. To their family was added another daughter, Lillian, making the family complete.

Church services for the community were held in people's homes until the St. Stephen's Lutheran Church was built by volunteer labor. They were active members of this church.

Wilhelm, along with several neighbors, served on the committee to help build a school for the community. He was also a road-foreman in the municipality of Leduc building roads in the Morrowdale district. Many miles of corduroy were filled in the winter months and later filled with dirt or sawdust by horse teams and scrapers. Then cats and graders were brought in to upgrade the roads. A lot of local farmers paid their land taxes by working on these roads.

In Oct. 1958 they had an auction sale and moved into the town of Thorsby, leaving the youngest son to farm. Later on they moved to Edmonton.

On November 21, 1967 they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary, along with their children and many friends and neighbors. It was a special event in their lives.

After Christine passed away in January of 1968, Wilhelm lived with the children until January 1976 when he to was called from this earth.

FAMILY TREE

Wilhelm Krueger 1896-1976, Christine Kunkel 1895-1968 were married in 1917. Children born to them:

Arthur Wilfred married Adora Schabert

Alfred Walter married Edna Forester Arnold married Linda Schmidt Reuben Harold married Jean Martinoff Esther Hildegard married Henry Lange Agnes Agatha married Joe Lange Wilhem Gotfried deceased Gordon Richard married Tillie Forester Lillian Lenora married William Goltz

THE NICK AND ELSA MARTINOFF FAMILY

by daughter Ellienora Rasch (nee Martinoff)

My great-grandfather, Gustav Rossin, came to Canada in the late 1890's. Liking Canada and because he prospered so well he remained until 1909. Returning to Russia, he told his family and friends that you could prosper well in Canada. In 1912, great-grandfather Rossin, his son Walter and his son-in-law, Jacob Martinoff, my grandfather, came to Canada. My great-grandmother Louise and her 5 daughters Olga, Amelia, Lena, Lydia, and Emma remained in Russia. On July 24, 1924 only great-grandmother Rossin was able to join him on his homestead in Bruderheim. His youngest daughter, Emma, followed in 1928 in the month of June. The rest of the family remained in Russia.

Great-grandfather Rossin and his family farmed for a few years and then he bought a livery stable. This he sold and bought a hall, five lots, and house with the money. (He rented the hall to the town and district of Bruderheim to be used as a school). Great-grandfather Rossin died of pneumonia on Jan. 16, 1928. Great-grandmother Rossin passed away in Feb. 1929 a short time after becoming ill with dropsy.

Olga, one of the daughters of the Rossin's, married Jacob Martinoff in the fall of 1906 in Novagrad Wolynski, Wolhynia Russia. He was a Russian Army Major in 1904 fighting in the front lines in Japan. They had 2 sons George and Nikolaus and a daughter Walia, who was a year old when Olga passed away. Jacob decided to come to Canada with his father-in-law, Gustav Rossin, to see if he would like it and then he would send for his family. In early spring of 1912 he landed in Winnipeg with my great grandfather Rossin and his brother-in-law, Walter. What he saw of Canada he didn't like, so they parted company. Greatgrandfather and his son Walter continued on to Bruderheim.

On Mar. 12, 1912, Jacob Martinoff arrived at Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. He worked in a steel factory and became a foreman. He planned to work for 3 years and then send for his family, but within 2 years war broke out in Russia making it impossible for them to come. Between 1914 and 1917 he contacted his family a few times and then the 1917 Revolution broke out and he didn't hear from them until 1923. He sent money for passports and fares but because the

new government wasn't settled, they couldn't get their passports. Finally in 1924 most arrangements were made but one certain paper hadn't arrived from their Dad. A decision was reached that they would travel to Moscow. Great-grandmother Louise Rossin, grandmother Martinoff and her 2 sons, George and Nikolaus, began their journey to Moscow. When they reached their destination that certain paper still hadn't arrived. It was decided that my great-grandmother Rossin would go to Canada and the others would follow later. They waited patiently all summer for that certain paper from their Dad. They sent telegrams and letters but no answer. Finally they decided to go back to their home in Novagrad Wolysnki. When they had been home a month they received a letter from Detroit, Michigan telling them that their father had passed away in June of 1924. Apparently, when he had received a letter from his wife which contained a picture of his two sons, he pressed the picture to his heart and died of a heart attack. The shock of this news almost killed my grandmother. The future in Russia was very bleak for young people. Grandmother Martinoff decided to send her sons to Canada to grandfather Rossin in Bruderheim and she would follow at a later date.

On Dec. 28, 1927, George Martinoff arrived on his grandfather's farm and Nick, my father, came in the spring of 1928. My father worked as a farm labourer for a year and then got a job in a brick factory. A few months later he met with an accident which crushed his leg and it had to be amputated. He spent 6 months in Lamont Hospital and later had to go back for another operation where more of his leg was remov;ed. He was fitted for an artificial wooden leg. When he was able to work again, he worked for Mr. Draber, who owned a garage, keeping books, doing truck driving for parts, etc. He met my mother Elsa Kurtz who was employed as a housekeeper for a R.C.M.P. family in Fort Saskatchewan.

Elsa was born Apr. 17, 1906. She was the daughter of Ludwig Kurtz and his wife Mathielda (nee Mielke). Her mother passed away when Elsa was 9 years old. Elsa's father married Amelia Haak, a widow with 4 children. Thus the 4 Kurtz daughters, Deana, Elsa, Tony, Olga, and the 3 Haak sons, Arnold, Richard and Ewald became a family. The couple had 4 more children; sons, Bernard and Waldemar; daughters, Ericka and Melitta. My grandfather Ludwid Kurtz died in the year 1940 and Amelia Kurtz in 1952. My mother came to Fro-Bisher, Saskatchewan in the spring of 1928 and worked as a maid in the Leo Schendle home. In Jan. 1929 she went to Fort Saskatchewan where she found employment as a housekeeper for Constable Ward and his family.

My parents met in the spring of 1929 and were married July 15, 1930 at a Lutheran Church in Strathcona, Alberta. The marriage was performed by Reverend K.N. Freitag. They made their home in Bruderheim for a short while. There was a local storekeeper, Mr. Harry Tarnov, who advised them to

buy land. My father decided to get a cash settlement from the Workmen's Compensation Board, where he was receiving a small pension for life and invested the money in a farm. Mr. Tarnov knew land was for sale in the Thorsby area. He took our parents for a drive to the Thorsby area and found that Mr. Anton Cieslinski had his land for sale so they bought NE 18-48-1 W5 from him in 1931. There were only 25 acres cleared. They started farming with 3 cows, 1 calf, 1 heifer, a few chickens, 2 work horses and 1 pony named Dolly. Dolly was very important to our father on account of his handicap. He could jump on his pony and do many an errand with her. It was very difficult for him to do any heavy farm work.

Our parents worked hard during the early years to make a living. There was a camp west of our parent's farm called Morrow's Lumber Camp. In 1933, Dad took his team of horses and worked at their camp hauling logs. He would haul the lumber from Morrow's camp to Kavanaugh which took 2 days. Dad spent the winter months in this way to earn money even though there were days and nights when cold, blowing winds would make snow drifts so high that he could barely get through. I was born on Mar. 18, 1936 while he was hauling tamarack posts to Ellerslie; a trip which took three days.

Our mother worked hard at home, milking cows and doing the farm chores. She made about 8 lbs. of homemade butter a week, and sold it to the lumber camp. Mom and the older children picked blueberries and at night they would clean them. There would be about 400 to 500 pounds of blueberries over the summer. Dad would take them to town to sell. In exchange, he would buy other necessary things such as fruits, sugar, salt and flour. Mom also canned a lot of blueberries as fruit and jam. That was always a treat for us in the winter time.

In Feb. 1931, our stepuncle, Ewald Haak, came to live with our parents. He helped clear some of the land and helped put up the hay. There were meadows on the farm and they made 50 to 70 tons of hay a year.



Martinoff family. L. to R.: Edward Martinoff, Bernard Martinoff, Jean Krueger holding her son James. Ellienora and her husband Albert Rasch, Harry Martinoff holding his niece Gladys Krueger.



Albert Rasch selling fish he had caught at Buck Lake. Two Neuman boys in background Rudolph and his brother Otto.

Some of their neighbors were Carl Hoffman, Adolph Grohn, August Rinas, Mike Chrunik and families. When the Morrowdale School was built Dad was Trustee several times over the years.

There were 5 children in our family, 4 of us children were born at home on the farm and Edward, the youngest, was born in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton.

Harry was born July 5, 1931. He works at the oil wells and is now an Assistant Drilling Superintendent. He married Jeanette Hebner on Oct. 26, 1955. They have 3 daughters, Donna (Koziol), Valerie (Jehn), Joyce and 1 son, Ralph.

Jean was born Oct. 21, 1932 and married Harold Kruger on July 5, 1950. They have 4 children, Gladys (Gunsch), James, Debra (Hennes), and Lyle.

Bernard was born May 10, 1941. He is also employed at the oil wells. He married Lenore Lindberg on Aug. 22, 1964. They live on the homeplace and own the north half of the quarter section NE 18-48-1-W5. They have 4 children Bonnie, Sally, Larry and Anita.

Edward was born Jan. 24, 1949. He married Vivian Pelech on Sept. 4, 1971 and they have a son, Dustin. Edward is in partnership with Ron Henschell and their company name is E.L.M. Aluminum Products Ltd. He works around the greater Vancouver area installing eavestroughing and aluminum siding and is presently living in North Delta, B.C. He owns the south half of the home quarter.

I was born on Mar. 18, 1936. My name is Ellienora Hedwiech Elsie but was always called Hady. I married a neighbor boy, Albert Rasch, on Dec. 3, 1952. We have 2 children, a son Frederick and a daughter Jane. Our son is employed with Challenger Drilling Ltd. as a driller. Our daughter is employed in Edmonton as a secretary to a manufacturing company. We live on NW 5-48-1-W5. After our marriage, Albert worked at the oil wells for 4 years. One winter we lived at Hinton where Albert worked in a logging camp, cutting logs for the pulp and paper mill in Hinton. When we came



Mr. and Mrs. Nick Martinoff, Oct. 26, 1955.

back to the farm, my parents gave us 4 milk cows and 1 sow with 7 little pigs. Albert's parents gave us 4 milk cows, 4 baby calves and we were well on our way to start farming.

From 1957 to 1965 we spent a lot of time fishing at Buck Lake, Pigeon and Wabamun Lakes. The commercial season for fishing was usually in the winter months, so we were able to get away from the farm during the day. We always had 600 yards of nets to set, so it was hard work for the two of us. The fishing was good and it gave us cash to supplement the farm income. Once we got over 1600 fish from 1 pulling which was about 4,200 lbs. Fish sold for 7 cents a pound so it was worthwhile to go. We gradually built up our dairy herd, started a small beef herd and also bought more land. Now we farm 3 quarters which are our own and 2 rented ones. In 1972, we built a new home and we intend to stay in the community my parents chose to call home.

In 1958, on June 1, Mom passed away suddenly. The family was heartbroken. It was very hard on Bernard and Edward since they were still so young. As the years went by Dad and the boys struggled to get along without her. In 1964 Bernard married Lenore Lindberg and during the first years of their marriage lived with Dad. Edward moved to Calgary and got a job. In 1968, Dad got sick with emphysema and stayed in the hospital from July to the end of Oct. He then stayed with his daughter Jean and her family. My father died on July 16th, 1971, not long after his first grandchild Gladys was married.

Our parents are both buried in St. Stephen's Lutheran Cemetery at Morrowdale.

THE JOHN JACOB MECKLEY FAMILY

by Esther Eklund

John Jacob Meckley was born on Oct. 17, 1906 in Ichenselt, Russia. His mother brought John to Canada as a small child, and his family settled in the Thorsby area in 1925.

He met Hilda Bauman, who was born in Manobosga, Russia, on Nov. 8, 1908. They were married on Jan. 4, 1928 and took up residence in the Sunnybrook district.

They had 5 daughters; Leola, Esther, Vivian,



The John Meckly sawmill, 1939.

Evelyn and Vera. John Meckley and his family moved to Thorsby in 1934. There he built the first chop mill.

in 1936 John moved his family to B.C. where he ventured into fishing and logging. Four years later he and his family returned to the Morrowdale district to try farming. In the winter of that same year John set up his sawmill and was responsible for a great deal of the lumber used in the neighboring buildings.

John was well known for all the custom threshing and land breaking that he performed for the surrounding neighbors. John also operated a gravel pit which was legally organized by Mr. Zeiner, who was a counsellor at that time.

John was a very active and ambitious man until the time of his passing on June 7, 1960.

In 1971 Hilda bought a small home in the heart of Thorsby where she now resides. Hilda always raised a large garden and is famous for her green thumb. To this day Hilda has a great love for growing plants and her house flourishes like a tropical rainforest all year round.

Hilda Meckley gave birth to their first daughter (Leola) on Oct. 5, 1928 in Sunnybrook. The Meckley family lived on a farm in the Sunnybrook area for approximately 3 years and then moved to Thorsby where Leola attended her first year of school. In 1936 Leola and her family moved to Fort Langley so her father could operate a small commercial fishing operation. Art Smith and John worked the Fraser River as a partnership for a couple of years. After her father sold their fishing boat, they moved to Princeton, B.C. to work as a logger. Shortly after, in 1940 the family returned to the prairies, and bought Bill Bauman's farm in the Morrowdale district.

At the age 16 Leola moved to Edmonton and worked for several years until she married on Dec. 10, 1949. Her husband, Theodore Kingsley Captain, originally resided in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Their first years of marriage were spent in Edmonton. A son James Kingsley was born March 15, 1951 and a daughter, Linda Lee, was born June 4, 1952 in Victoria, B.C. Three years later Edith Sharon was born, Jan. 4, 1956.

Leola and her family lived on the west coast until

1958 and then returned to Edmonton, where her children attended school on the south side. In the hundredth anniversary of confederation, 1967, the Captain family again moved back to Victoria where they are presently residing.

Esther Meckley was the second child born to John and Hilda on March 28, 1930 in Sunnybrook. Esther began her schooling in Fort Langley and attended various schools in B.C. until her parents moved back to Morrowdale.

At 18 years of age Esther married Fritz Eklund on July 9, 1948. Fritz was a farmer in the Glen Park district. There they settled and raised their family. They have 2 children a daughter, Lorraine Ellen born Jan. 22, 1951 in Westaskiwin and a son, John Wayne born in Wetaskiwin on March 14, 1956. These children grew up in Glen Park and attended school in Kulm, Humble, Calmar and Leduc.

In 1970 Lorraine married Robert William Hrychuck and resided in Leduc. Their first daughter born was named Kristine Leane - Nov. 19, 1972. On March 28, 1977 a second daughter was born to them and named Andrea Lynn. Esther cherishes her 2 grandchildren dearly and many delightful and fulfilling hours will be remembered with her family.

Unfortunately Fritz passed away on June 11, 1973 and the residents of the Glen Park area, his family and friends will treasure his thoughfulness and kindness that he bestowed on his fellowman.

Esther and her son John are presently living on the farm. John has ventured into hauling, and owns and operates his own gravel truck. Besides Esther's farm duties, she works part time as a cook.

Vivian was born Nov. 19, 1932 in the Sunnybrook area. Her first school years were spent in Fort Langley, B.C and she completed her education in Morrowdale.

Vivian married Otto Neiman on June 15, 1950. They had three children, Elaine born June 10, 1951, a second daughter Esther, June 12, 1953, and a son Gerry born Jan. 1, 1958.

Otto and Vivian lived in the Morrowdale district for approximately 3 years, enduring farming hardships. After this time the family moved to Michigan Centre to continue mixed-farming.

On Dec 12, 1970, Elaine (Vivian's eldest daughter) married Jerry Hoot. Vivian has 3 grandchildren by this marriage. Their names are June Shelly, Joy Anne and Jeffery Shane. Esther, the second child born to Otto and Vivian, has been married to Terry Knull since June 16, 1973.

Vivian and Otto are presently residing in the Leduc area.

Evelyn was born in Sunnybrook on April 11, 1934. Through Evelyn's growing years, she became very attached and devoted to her parents and their farm. Evelyn enjoyed milking her cows. She truly enjoyed the atmosphere of farm living.

In 1957, she married Jim Stashko on April 30. Evelyn and her husband moved to Edmonton where her husband worked as an engineer for Burns. While

in Edmonton, they had 2 children, Debbie born Nov. 3, 1959 and Carolyn, born Sept. 3, 1960. Shortly thereafter they moved to Bonnie Glen where a third child, a boy Wayne, was born Dec. 1, 1963. Several years later the family moved to Jim's father's farm to continue operating the Stashko farm. Then in 1973, Evelyn and her family moved to Edmonton and are currently running a motel business—The Alpine Motel.

Vera Meckley, the youngest child of John and Hilda was born March 21, 1941. Vera was born in an old log house owned by Rheinold Bauman situated in the Morrowdale district. At the age of 7, she started school in a small white-framed, red-shingled roof school house heated by a pot-bellied stove. In Morrowdale her first teacher was Mr. Tom Wells. Vera and her sister endured a 4 mile walk from their home to school and back home again. She attended this school until she completed grade 9 and then finished high school in Leduc. Vera moved to Edmonton to find a job and during her first years of her draughting career, she studied art and painting. For several years Vera pursued this interest as a hobby, and to this day many of her oil and water color paintings are seen hanging in the family's homes. Vera is presently working for Alberta Government Telephones as a draughting clerk.

EMIL AND ELLA NEUMANN AND FAMILY

by Annie Neumann

Emil and Ella, his wife, were both born in the Ukraine in the year 1926. Emil was the younger of two children born to Eva and Friedrick Neumann. Ella was the eldest of three children born to Johanna and Otto Gross.

In 1937 Ella's father was taken from the family by the Russians. He was never heard from again.

The year of 1940 proved to be a tragic event for Emil's family. Emil was fourteen when his mother Eva passed away due to illness.

With the onslaught of the war the country was in turmoil. For this reason both families immigrated to Germany in the year of 1943.

Time went on and things had settled down. However once again tragedy was due to strike, for in 1946 Emil's father passed away.

The war years consisted primarily of refugee camps for both families. After World War Two Emil and Ella were re-united and in 1947, in the deep of winter, Emil and Ella were married.

They had a son Otto about twelve months later and in the fall of 1950 a son Rudolf was born to them.

Emil's brother Ewald had encouraged the Neumanns to come to Canada where life seemed to be better. It was in April of 1952 that Emil, Ella and their two sons immigrated to Canada on the ship



L. to R.: Rudolph, Otto, Herbert, Mother, Annie and Henry Neumann.

Beaverbrae. From Quebec they came to Edmonton by train. Once in Canada they stayed with Emil's brother Ewald until they found a house. This was the Art Schmidt house on the former Sontag farm. Emil found employment with Rudolf Schmidt as plasterer and stuccoer.

While living in the Schmidt house two more children were added to the family. Annagrette (Annie) was born in the summer of 1953 and in the fall of 1955 Heinz (Henry) was born. During these years Emil worked away from home leaving Ella to care for the four children. Emil came home on the weekends during this time.



Neumann Family L. to R.: Emil Neumann, Ella, Rudolph, Otto, Henry. In front, Annie and Herbert.

From the Schmidt farm the Neumanns moved to the Leduc area and a year later they rented the house and yard area of what was then the Albert Schmidt farm. Here they lived for six years.

In 1961 Emil bought a quarter section of land 3 miles west of Pigeon Lake off the north shore. About a year later they moved a small house onto the property and moved in. In time they built an addition to the house thus making it more spacious.

It was in the summer of 1961 that Herbert their youngest child was born.

In May of 1973 yet another tragedy struck the Neumanns. On Good Friday of that year their children Rudolf and Annie were involved in a motor cycle accident. Rudolf sustained injuries to his head and passed away eleven days later. Annie sustained injuries to her knee but with the aid of surgery is now okay.

Today Emil and Ella are anticipating moving into their new house which Emil is building across from the old one.

Otto married Karin (nee Petruch) in 1967. They have one son by the name of Thomas. They reside in Edmonton. He is superintendent for Gloge Plumbing.

Annie also lives in Edmonton and is employed as a computer data processing supervisor for a company dealing in metal fabbing tools.

Henry works for Alta. Gov. Telephones in telecommunications. He resides in Spruce Grove.

Herbert is completing his final year of high school in Thorsby.

Emil is still working summers as a stuccoer. Both Emil and Ella are active members of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

EWALD & OLGA NEUMAN

by Hertha (Neuman) Scheetz

Ewald Neuman was born in Russia in 1923 to a German blacksmith whose ancestors had also been blacksmiths. They had left Germany in 1868 when the Czar promised land to those who wanted to pioneer it.

In 1943 Ewald met and married Olga Ortlieb who was also of German descent. Her ancestors also left Warsaw in the 1870's, only for different reasons. Her maternal great-grandfather had a textile factory in Warsaw, Poland. The factory burned down along with their money and all other possessions, even some of their servants burned. They became poor people and so went to Russia where land could be pioneered and wild game was plentiful.

When Ewald and Olga were married, the Second World War was in full swing and times were troubled. Because they were of German origin, they were allowed to leave Russia, to go back to Germany. Leaving Russia forever, they became refugees. Relatives and friends were left behind, some they would never see again, others they would later be united with in Germany. A few worldly possessions were packed into a horse-drawn wagon. Ewald's father, who was elderly and almost an invalid, was the only one who rode. The others, Ewald, Olga, who was expecting their first child in Feb. and Ewald's brother Emil, walked most of the way to Germany. They left at the end of Oct.; the weather was getting cold and travel was slow since they had their family cow and sheep walking along side of them. These were later forfeited to Hitler's troops. Food was scarce, often stolen along the way. Sleeping accommodations were



Fishing at Cold Lake in 1955. L. to R.: Wm. Rasch, Nick Martinoff, Sigmund Rinas, Ewald Neuman, Albert Rasch his wife holding their son Fred. The 3 Rainbow trout shown weighed up to 30 lbs.

equally as hard to come by. There was always the constant fear of communist partisans. Two days before Christmas they arrived in Germany where they weren't so well received by the German people because Russia and Germany were still at war.

In 1944, a son, Gerhard, was born to Olga and Ewald. Shortly after, Ewald was enlisted in the German Army. Olga worked for farmers and had no home of her own. These were trying times for them. In 1945 a daughter, Hertha, was born. The war was over and Ewald was home to stay. He worked for the Government in a forest. They became citizens, but Ewald felt there was no future for them here. He had worked papers out to immigrate to Central America. In the meantime they had contact with a brother who had relatives in Canada. Ewald wrote to the Rudolf Schmidt family. Olga packed a trunk with a few household goods because she was told in Canada you could not buy these things. Imagine their surprise when they arrived and they could buy anything they desired if they had the money.

In Mar. of 1949, after 12 days on a turbulent ocean and much sea sickness, the small Neuman family set foot on Canadian soil at Halifax. Here they were welcomed, with doughnuts and small treats for the children, by the ladies of the Royal Purple. What a feeling to be immigrants and yet to be made to feel at home!

Four days across Canada on a train brought them to Leduc where the George Wedman's were to pick them up, but there had been a misunderstanding. Noticing them standing all alone, a very kind lady namely, Mrs. Joe Krukowski of Thorsby, who had been there to pick up a relative also, approached them and learned of their problem. The Krukowskis then took them to the Wedmans where the Neumans stayed 3 days, after which they went to the Rudolf Schmidt farm in the Morrowdale district. Ewald worked with the Schmidt plastering crew and Olga helped on the farm. The money earned that summer was saved to pay for the fare and the little that was left over was for the winter's living. For 2 years they rented a vacant

farmhouse in the Morrowdale district. Towards the end of their first winter in Canada, thecupboards were getting bare and there was no money left. The Morrowdale Luther League collected \$15.00 for the family so that they could buy some of the staples they needed. The gratitude that Ewald and Olga felt for the community will never be forgotten.

In 1951 Ewald bought the farm from Steve Munsch who was retiring from farming to go to Vancouver. He paid \$3,000.00 for 18 acres of cultivated land, 140 acres of heavy bush and millions of stones. This farm's first owner, David Pahl had bought the land from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1928. He had built the log house, barn and some of the other buildings.

were not lonesome. The people in the community made them feel like a part of their families. The Morrowdale Lutheran Church was the center of a lot of the community activity. Sunday church services, mission festivals, Christmas programs, weddings and funerals were held there. No matter how cold that 1-mile walk to church was, it was always well worth it. What excitement to walk to a Christmas Eve service! The air would be cool and the snow sparkling crisp, but no one complained. The little church would smell of spruce needles, and under the tree were cards, gifts and bags of treats for all the children. The children all took part in the Christmas program with singing and reciting verses, after which the goodies from under the tree were handed out. Then tired, but happy, they walked back home to a cold house.

Fortunately for the children, school was only 1 mile away. When Gerhard started school he could not speak English. Needless to say those first few months were difficult, however by Christmas he had mastered English and even taught his little sister so that when she started school, she fared much better. There were Christmas concerts, Halloween and Valentine parties, ball games, a grand picnic for everyone at the end of the year, and of course nature walks to and from



The Ewald Neuman family in 1967. Parents seated, Olga and Ewald. Standing at back their two children Hertha Scheetz and Gerhard Neuman.

school. The school taught grades 1 to 9 until it was closed in 1957 and everyone was bused to Thorsby.

The roads in the early years were not very good but to the Neumans this was not a problem. Their means of travel was on foot and by horses. Often the snow would blow in and not be cleared for a good part of the winter. In the spring and summer there were at least 3 or 4 good-sized mudholes in 1 mile. By the time a car was afforded the roads had improved.

As time passed the Neumans cleared more land. This was hard work because of the heavy bush and the equipment was not very new or modern. The early fifties were very wet years and the farm, being at the bottom of the hill, was a collecting spot for a lot of the water. There were hard times because of the crop failures due to hail, frost and excessive rains. Ewald worked in the summer with a plastering crew and Olga staved home and looked after the farm. Even when the work was hard and the hours long, Ewald and Olga were always thankful for the opportunity and the challenge to better themselves. No longer did they have to fear for their lives, or live under an oppressive government. The good things which happened to them seemed to erase memories of hard times as their farming gradually improved. They purchased more land and acquired more cattle and decided to turn to dairying.

Threshing time was always exciting since this was one of the few times there was store-bought bread and meat for sandwiches, even apples and apple pies. What hearty meals were cooked on the old coal and wood stove! It was no sin to be absent from school either. The children were always sorry to see the threshing crew leave, but Mrs. Neuman would be very tired from all her extra chores plus her regular work.

In 1965 Hertha married Alvin Scheetz of Thorsby. They have 4 children. Gerhard married Janice Hagan in 1978 and they will soon take over the dairy operation.

Although the first years presented some difficult times for the Neumans they never regretted coming to Canada. In 1967 they became Canadian citizens and can think of no other country but Canada as being their home. The land has been good to them, the people mostly kind and they are very proud to be able to say that this wonderful country is their home. For this they are ever grateful that it was God's will and He led them here.

HARRY AND MAXINE PICHONSKY AND FAMILY

by Harry Pichonsky

Harry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Pichonsky of Thorsby. Maxine is the former Maxine Fedor, daughter of Mrs. Katie Fedor and the late Mr. Fred Fedor of Calmar.

Harry lived all of his life in the Thorsby district. He attended grades 1 - 7 at Dniester School. Besides helping with chores around the farm Harry spent much of his time trapping weasels and shooting squirrels. A good weasel hide would bring up to \$8.00. This extra income helped to pay for such things as a gun, some clothes and musical instruments. Grade 8 meant catching a school bus 2 miles from home and riding to Thorsby. At Thorsby Harry attended grades 8 - 12, where he graduated in 1955.

Harry always liked music and could play an accordian, violin, guitar and saxophone. With this talent Harry formed an orchestra while in Grade 10. With him were Ray Sivertson on accordian and Leslie Liba on banjo. Harry's brother Walter on guitar, later joined the group known as The Country Style Entertainers. Their first dance was at Valleyview Hall just west and north of Warburg. It was a school dance for the purpose of raising money. From that first dance this orchestra played for many dances and Ukrainian Weddings. There were many exciting moments and many tense moments. One dance had to be called at 11 o'clock because of continued fist fights in the hall at Winfield. On another occasion a blizzard during a New Year's dance saw the orchestra snow bound on a country road all night. One time the boys even arrived 1 week late to play for a dance at Hoadley. However, these experiences and playing for the enjoyment of playing at places such as Buck Creek, Stony Plain, Drayton Valley, Camrose as well as local points were a focal point of Harry's younger days.

After finishing school Harry apprenticed as an electrician at Thorsby Electric. On June 1st, 1960 Harry obtained his papers as a First Class Electrician, the same day he and Maxine were married. Maxine attended school at Michigan Centre and grades 10 - 12 at Leduc High School where she graduated in 1958.

After their marriage Harry and Maxine lived in Thorsby for a couple of years, then decided to go farming, something Harry always wanted to do. They farmed the home quarter along with Harry's dad. Poor health necessitated that Harry have operations on both of his lungs which meant that they could not farm.

Harry wanted to go to university; however, he did not have sufficient standings for university entrance, so he decided to go back to school after being out of school for 9 years. He went back to Thorsby High School and completed his university requirements. Going back to school was very difficult, however, Harry soon felt at home with the students and even had to be told by Mr. Woloshyn the principal, not to run in the hallways.

In the fall of 1966 Harry entered the University of Alberta in Edmonton where he received his Bachelor of Education, majoring in Industrial Arts. He taught 1 year at Archbishop Jordon High School in Sherwood Park, then came back to his home town and Thorsby High school, where he has taught ever since.

Harry and Maxine were unable to have children of



Harry Pichonsky family: Harry, Maxine holding baby Michael, Jason and Shauna. Sept. 24, 1978.

their own so adopted 2 beautiful children: Jason in 1970 and Shauna in 1972. After 18 years of married life they were blessed with a child of their own. Michael Troy weighing 8 lbs. 6 oz. was born on Sept. 16, 1978.

Harry and Maxine presently reside on their own farm 4½ miles south and 2 miles west of Thorsby (SE 20-48-1 W5). Using his talents and education Harry recently completed building his own housse, the first house they can truly call their own. After 8 moves from place to place they are settled and enjoying rural life with their family.

EXPERIENCES OF A YOUNG TEACHER

submitted by Myrna Popik

My first teaching position was in the newly-formed Morrowdale School District in 1936. There was no school built as yet, so classes were held in the St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. There were 27 pupils



L. to R.: Luke Pasula, Irene Chickoski and Myrna Babiak in 1937.

registered that year in grades one to eight. The teacher's salary was \$600.00 per year.

These pupils were very eager to learn and made rapid progress. They were very well-behaved making it a pleasure to work with them. I stayed with the Mike Chrunik family and walked two miles to school. Three of their children attended school. In the spring it was rather tricky getting to school as we had to cross a swamp. We used to hop from one spongy knoll to another, hoping it would hold us up. Sometimes we midjudged and the end result was boots full of water. When we reached the other side of the swamp we'd empty the water out of our boots and keep on going. If the water was too high in places we would walk along the barbed wire fence.

The following year we moved into the newly-built school on the south-west corner of the Ed Henschel farm. There were now more pupils. We had no library books nor any playground equipment. This was in the midst of the depression. When Inspector Scoffield came for his annual school inspection, he brought us two large boxes of library books. These were greatly appreciated and read many times over. I stayed with the Ed Henschel family which was a short distance from the school. That year we had our first Christmas concert. The children performed very well. We were fortunate in having Art Hebner come to the school with his guitar and help us with our singing.

At the end of the school year we had a picnic at Pigeon Lake. We walked 3 miles through the woods and after lunch, played ball and went boat riding.



Morrowdale pupils at Pigeon Lake picnic end of school year.

I recall an experience I had during my first year at Morrowdale. One Saturday morning in January, I went to Edmonton by bus to get some books. The morning was sunny and quite warm, but that was short-lived, for early in the afternoon a blizzard came up with strong winds and drifting snow. The bus left Edmonton as usual, but when we reached Leduc, the driver was told that the road west of Leduc was drifted solid and no traffic was getting through. He returned to Edmonton with all the passengers. The only way we could get home now would be by train but we would have to wait till Monday morning. I decided I had to get back before then. By next morning the storm was over, it was sunny but colder, around -10°F. I took the south-bound train as far as Leduc and about 10 a.m.

set out on foot for my parents place south of Buford some 18 miles away. Because of the drifted roads, I walked along the railway track. I stopped briefly in Calmar for lunch and a rest, and again in Buford. I reached my parents home in the later afternoon. They decided my brother Tom would take me the remaining 12 miles by horse and cutter.

It was dark now and much colder. Travel was very slow. When we had gone about half the way, we stopped at a farmhouse to rest the horse and to warm up. They were surprised to see us when we finally reached my boarding place at 11 p.m. and the temperature was -35°F. I walked to school next morning quite stiff and sore, but content with the fact that I got back on time. This incident appeared in the Edmonton Journal the following week. I never did find out who reported this, but I still have the clipping from the paper.

While at Morrowdale, I met Anna Moyer (Mrs. Sam Wickstrom) who taught in the neighboring school. We became good friends and our friendship has lasted for over 40 years.

On occasion, I pass by the Morrowdale Community Centre. It brings back memories of the two pleasant years I spent with those fine children.

OLIVER AND HELEN PROVENCE

In the fall of 1938, Oliver and Helen Provence and their 3 young sons, Philip, Ralph and Alan came from Shelby, Montana and settled down on their farm 7 miles south and 2 miles west of Thorsby SE 8-48-1 W5. A daughter Mildred and son John (Jack) were living in Great Falls, Montana at the time.

Oliver bought the 160 acre farm from Leo Wedman, and the only buildings on it were a small log barn and a two-room log house, which was turned into a cozy little home for the family. It was surrounded by trees, shrubs and a lawn, and Helen always planted a variety of lovely flowers.

The old barn was later replaced with a larger new one which was not completely finished when they left the farm. The Emil Nikolais who farmed southeast of Thorsby, had the misfortune to lose their barn in a fire. In 1959, they purchased the Provence barn and had it moved to their farm. It was quite a project to move such a high building but the task was accomplished and the barn settled on its new location. It was put to good use and is still used today.

The Provences lived on their farm for 11 years during which time Ralph and Alan attended schools in Morrowdale and Thorsby while Jack and Phil served in the U.S. Army.

In 1949 they returned to Montana. Oliver died in Kalispell in 1971 and Helen now lives there in a nursing home.

Mildred and her husband, Wayne Fritz, also reside in Kalispell. They have 3 children.



Helen and Oliver Province, 1959.

Jack and his wife Esther live in Hope, Idaho.

Phil was married to Emma Schmidt, formerly of Morrowdale, in 1956. They are now living in Kalispell, and have 3 children, Patricia Schmid, Peggy Mathiason and Elizabeth Boehm; also one grand-daughter, Jolene Schmid.

Ralph also served in the army and is now living in San Martin, California.

Alan served in the Navy. He and his wife, Donella, and 2 children also live in San Martin.

THE HISTORY OF THE WILLIAM RASCH FAMILY

by Phil Brod (son-in-law)

Mr. William Rasch's life started in Wolhynia, Russia, Nov. 6, 1900. In 1911, he with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michel Rasch, brother Otto and 5 sisters immigrated to Canada. The ship they came over on was called "William The Great", and landed in New York late in the spring. They left New York by train for Irvine, Alberta.

The Rasch family took up a homestead 2 miles east of Schuler, Alberta, where William lived with his family, until he went on his own.

In 1922 he met a young woman, whose name was Matilda Baumann, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Baumann.

She, with her parents, 2 sisters and 4 brothers immigrated to Canada in June of 1911. They came from Russia near the Black Sea. The name of the ship they came over on was "The Montreal Ship." It landed in Montreal. From there they came by train to Irvine, Alberta. They took up a homestead 3 miles west of Schuler, Alberta, where they farmed as a family for 13 years.

On Dec. 13, 1922 Matilda and William were married and started up their own home. They rented a quarter section of land and lived in a small home with their 2 little children Herb and Emma. William worked on his farm as well as for anybody who needed help. He even went as far away as Moose Jaw, Sask. to work in harvest time to make some extra money.

Mrs. Rasch recalls that she picked many a bag full of cow chips to heat their little home in the winter time as well as cook their meals with. They were not satisfied where they were - dust storms and poor crops. There was not much of a future to look forward to. There was rumor that there was land available up north. But how would they get there?

Then help came; the C.P.R. offered any farmer who wanted to move could load up all their belongings and the C.P.R. would move them north free of charge.

The Rasch family was one of 42 families who took up this offer. Some of these farmers got off at Olds, Red Deer and Lacombe, The Rasch family went a little farther north and stopped at Leduc. There Mr. and Mrs. Rasch worked for Sam Neiman for about 3 months. Then on March 25, 1925 they moved by horse and wagon to Thorsby.



Mrs. Wm. Rasch on the farmstead, with Leola Meckley and Leah

On their move to Thorsby it started to rain, so they stopped, took off the wagon box, upset it and lived under it for 3 days. With them lived a hen and her little brood of chicks (which were given by Mrs. Neiman).

They bought a quarter sec. of land from the C.P.R. located at NE 5-1-49 W5 at \$14.00 and acre. They paid \$14.00 as down payment and had to clear some land every year and make payments by crop share. Wheat sold for 21-23¢ a bushel. Their first home on this farm was built with logs.

Here they lived and farmed for a few years. In the winter time William would cut tamarack fence posts which were sold. In the summer time after the crops were in, there was much work to be done - such as clearing land. There are quite a few farmers that could say, "Yes, that corner, or this small piece of land was cleared by William with the help of his family." Many a pail of blueberries was picked - some for jam and fruit and the rest were sold to help supplement the income.

The children of school age attended Dniester school. The teachers at that time were the Foxes.



William Rasch's Model T Ford, Emma and Annie Rasch. 1939.

When they moved south the children went to the Morrowdale School. The teacher at that time was Miss Myrna Babiak.

Feed was very short so William, along with John Baumann, John Fink, Paul Fink, and a couple more took their horses with wagons and racks and travelled to Wetaskiwin. There they bought greenfeed bundles from Philip Brod who lived about 6 miles east of Wetaskiwin. While they were there, it started to snow and a blizzard started so they had to wait for a couple of days.

A few years later they moved 4½ miles south on to a farm where they built a house from lumber, which was later sold and moved to Sunnybrook. It is still there, just west of the school on the north side of the highway. They lived on this farm for about 4 years, sold it and bought a farm 2 miles west, from Adolph Grohn. There they had a more prosperous life and things started to go better. Four years later they bought another farm. This was owned by Ed Henchell. In the spring of 1944 they started to build a new house and in the fall they moved in to it. This house was built by M.E. Kuzio who built many a house and barn in that community. He also built a barn on the Rasch's farm. In 1964 this barn burnt to the ground and with it they lost 6 cows and 3 pigs and a loft full of hay. There was another barn built on the same spot the following summer.

In 1966 they retired from farming and bought a home in Thorsby, where they are still residing.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rasch and family, st. L. to R.: Herbert, Emma, Leah, Annie, Albert, and youngest son David between parents. 1950.

Mr. and Mrs. William Rasch raised a family of 6 children.

Herb bought the Grohn's farm from his father.

Emma married Philip Brod Jr. and they live in Edmonton. Philip is a heavy duty mechanic and works for Con-Force Products as a shop foreman and mechanic. They have 2 children - Derald and Debra, and 1 granddaughter - Michell.



Philip and Emma Brod and children.

Annie got married to Erwin Gunsch. They used to be neighbors where the Rasches first lived when they moved to Thorsby. The Gunsches now live in Leduc. They have 4 children and 3 grandchildren. Reuben is married to Gladys Krueger. Doreen lives in Edmonton and Marvin works for Great West Plains Gas Co. and lives in Grande Cache. Douglas is still going to school.

Albert married Ellinora Martinoff and they have 2 children — Fred and Jane.

Lea married Walter Hennes from Etonia, Sask. They lived in Winnipeg for a number of years and now live in Alberta. They have 3 children; Rickie, Allen and Sandra. Allen married Debra Krueger in 1978.

David married Gayle Lange and he with his wife and 2 boys Dale and Barry, live on the home place, where they have a good dairy farm business and milk over 40 cows.

Mr. and Mrs. William Rasch still enjoy fairly good health. They still enjoy taking their car and driving out to where they used to farm and visit some of the neighbors.

AUGUST RINAS

August Rinas came from Ukraine, Russia to Alberta in June 1927 with his parents. They came to Buford whre they settled on a farm. Johanna Buss and her parents Sam and Pauline Buss arrived in Alberta in the middle of August 1927. They settled on a farm 2 miles south of Thorsby. That farm is now owned by Steve Klimosko.

The next morning they walked to their own farm, one mile away. Here they had to clear land with an axe and grub hoe so they could build a house. They worked hard all summer on it and in early fall moved in.

That was a very cold winter and to keep the house warm they took turns staying up all night to keep the fire burning by keeping the stove filled with wood.

In June of 1930 their eldest son Ron was born and in September 1932 another son Siegmund was born. A daughter, Lydia was born in Feb. 1934 and 5 years later in 1939 another son Helmuth joined the family.

The children all attended school and Sunday School at Morrowdale, the church and school were very close by.

The family are all married now. Ron lives at Olds. Siegmund and Helmuth live in Edmonton and Lydia is now Mrs. Henry Kivitt and they live at Telfordville.

August Rinas passed away Jan. 11, 1965. Johanna is now Mrs. Klein and lives in Edmonton.

The August Rinas family were the first German settlers in the Morrowdale district. Later in the same year Mr. and Mrs. Nick Martinoff, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Sontag, Mr. Adolf Grohn and Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Schmidt arrived to make their homes nearby.

ALBERT SCHABERT FAMILY

by Della (Schabert) Hebner

Mr. Albert Schabert immigrated to Canada in 1912 and married Emma Welk of Steinbach, Manitoba on Feb. 16, 1914. There they lived for the first few years of their married life. Their home was blessed with 8 children - 6 girls and 2 boys who are all living and married. They are Helen Knopp, Della Hebner, Adora Krueger, Katie Wingert, Ella Szakacs, Louise Schultz, Alvin and Erwin.

From Steinbach we moved to Tomahawk where Dad bought one farm and leased another one for pasture. Buildings had to be erected immediately and no time was lost to cut down logs and hew them on all sides. Rocks were laid for foundations and up went the walls, placing layers of moss between each layer of logs. This was followed by a plastering job which consisted of a mud mixture that covered the whole wall. Then it was white-washed to give a nice white exterior.

The inside was finished the same way. Curtains were made from flour bags and dyed in bright colours. Although our mattresses were made of straw, our home was comfortable and warm. We were one happy family!

Our dresses were also made of flour bags. These were also dyed, mostly red as this colour stood up the best. Mother did all her washing on the old wash board and tub. Homemade soap was the only thing that was used for washing clothes, and scrubbing the board floors. A little lye was added to the water to whiten the

board floor. Ironing clothes was a big job for Mother. She was up bright and early next morning after washing clothes and ironed them all up before we got up. Our dresses were ready to wear again.

Then came land clearing, the old bush axe, grub hoe and axe were the only means to clear an acre of land. We girls helped along as much as we could, grubbing and pulling the trees down with the horses, as this method seemed quicker. Breaking was not an easy task, but was done with the old sulky plow and horses. Dad would get up early, when the weather was cooler and dig right into it. He changed horses at midday, a hard tedious job, indeed, but he did it with pride. Horses had to be fed extremely well and an abundance of hay and oats was always on hand. We girls gave a hand too, on the land clearing - we had to if we wanted to seed grain and plant a garden. We picked the roots and piled them into piles. When they were well dried they would be burned. Cleaning the barn was another chore we girls did twice a day.

Our only means of livelihood was from a large garden and wild game. Dad was well experienced in hunting and saw that Mother had plenty of meat to can for the summer months. Only the barest necessities were bought from the store. Barley and wheat were roasted in the oven, then ground up and one pound of coffee was added. This made about four pounds of coffee - perhaps not so tasty, but nevertheless served the purpose.

A school was finally built and off we went, walking 5 miles every morning and evening. Bad weather was no excuse to stay home. Bush trails were the only roads we'd known. There were lots of wild berries, especially chokecherries and we ate lots. As a matter of fact we grew up on wild fruit.

Then came confirmation classes which meant walking 8 miles every day. As classes were held every day of the week, nothing was thought of walking, as that was the only means of transportation for us. My dear old uncle, Henry Welk, felt sorry for me and offered me a saddle horse to ride, which was a luxury at that time. It was also very much appreciated.

In 1940 the family moved to Warburg from Tomahawk, a distance of about 20 miles. Dad and I each drove one team of horses with our cows tied up behind. Our belongings which consisted of a home made table, chairs, beds and one cupboard were all loaded on both wagons. Our cooking utensils were packed in apple boxes. These boxes were most useful to store things in.

We arrived at the river to find that the spring run-off was occurring. The water level was too high for the ferry to operate, so there we were, stranded and waiting for the water level to drop to normal. Out came our axes and saws to cut down small trees to build a tee-pee. Down came the spruce boughs for shingles and also spruce boughs for flooring. Our mattresses were placed on this and our beds were ready for the night's rest.

After a couple of days of camping Dad pulled a home made raft into the river to connect to the ferry. This way we could drive on with our team of horses onto the ferry to continue our journey. We drove all night, while the younger sisters and brothers slept in the wagon. We sang all the old favorite songs we could think of to keep us awake.

Finally we arrived in Warburg and settled on the old Mrs. Case place, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Warburg. From there I got my first job at 10¢ a day, which was good pay in those days. Milking cows by hand, feeding calves, and pigs and other chores that were also waiting to be done. Drawing water with a rope and bucket was the only means to water cattle, horses and sheep. That wasn't particularly easy, but was a daily task. I thought it was a good wage and was most grateful to earn my own money. I had to carry water for washing clothes, then scrub the clothes on a washboard and iron them between the outside chores. Two families lived on this farm and I walked back and forth working for both of them.

One beautiful Sunday, an old grandpa gentleman came to visit the Schabert family. He eyed us girls over very carefully, then went to the home of Arthur Hebner in the Morrowdale district, and made him well aware of us girls. Arthur didn't waste any time to drop in to see the Schaberts for some unknown excuse, and the rest is self-explanatory. Yes, we were soon married and settled on the Hebner farm in the Morrowdale district. Dad then purchased a farm in the Fern Creek district, where the rest of the family lived, until they were all married and left home. Dad was forced to leave the farm due to ill health and they retired in Calmar. There they lived until their passing.

After thirty-seven years of marriage we (Della and Art Hebner) still live on the same property, and expect to do so as long as health and age permit. Financially, things didn't always look bright, but there was always another tomorrow to look forward to. Plans had to be made very carefully, as money was the most difficult thing to lay hands on in those days. We were blessed with lots of wild strawberries and blueberries. Each year I would pick and can 30-35 quarts of wild strawberries. This took a lot of energy and a good strong backbone, to go through the days, months and years that we picked berries. Blueberries were picked by the hundreds of pounds each year and sold to make a payment on the farm or wherever necessity arose.

After eighteen and one half years of married life we were blessed with a baby boy, Randy Allen. At the age of 4 and until he went to school we took him out to the blueberry patch with us and he learned how to pick. In 1972 I picked 600 pounds of blueberries myself; selling them was no problem. Randy and his dad picked 400 pounds between them. That was an exceptionally good year for wild berries. The best was made of what we had and we were happy. This was sometimes difficult, but a good experience for us all.

I was also janitor for the Morrowdale school for 12

years. When the local school closed down, the school was purchased for a community centre, and I continued as janitor for another 20 years. I was also janitor for the church for a number of years so have done my fair share of scrubbing. Being community minded has kept us active in the community and church work. We also participated with the young people years after we were married. Now Randy has grown up to be a fine healthy boy. He joins his dad with his music and song at different functions, as well as in the home. Randy was educated in Thorsby School and graduated on May 12, 1978.

HELEN SCHABERT KNOPP

My father, Albert Schabert, came from Poland in 1912 to Steinbeck, Manitoba, where his sister, Christina, lived. After living there two years, he married Emma Welk in Feb., 1914. Albert was both doctor and nurse for the 13 children who were born, but five of these died in infancy. Of the eight living, six girls and two boys. I, Helen Knopp, an the oldest. Next is Adela, (Mrs. Arthur Hebner of Thorsby), Adora, (Mrs. Arthur Krueger of Drayton Valley), Katie, (Mrs. Bill Wingert of Warburg), Ella, (Mrs. Danny Szahacs of Lamont), Louise, (Mrs. Don Shultz of Warburg), and my brothers are Elvin Schabert of Nicaragua, Central America, and Erwin Schabert of Calgary, Alberta.

After working in the Steinbeck area for approximately six years, the Schabert family came to Edmonton where they remained for a short time. They



Albert Schabert family. Back row: Helen, Adela, Dora, Katie. Front Row: Louise, Elvin, Erwin and Ella.

then decided to make their home in the Tomahawk area.

I was eleven when I went to school for the first time. It is one thing I shall never forget. The closest school, which was near Rocky Rapids, was the Romano School. It was five miles away and accessible only by a bush trail. We began in Feb. of 1932 and, in June, a "one cow trail" was cleared so that we had to walk only two and one half miles instead of five.

Adela, Adora, and I had to hurry home from school, so we could get wood and water into the house before dark, as well as do all the other chores. The wood had to be sawed by hand and carried into the woodbox so that Mom could cook supper and the house would stay warm.

Washing clothes was done by hand on a washboard. I can remember what fun it was wringing bed sheets with my sisters, one of us on each end.

As we girls grew older, we helped Mother, but I was the field and chore girl. I can remember riding the binder to help my dad cut grain, filling and riding the drill in spring at seeding time, and in fall helping to put up hay in stacks. Those were days when a girl was just as good as a man. We grubbed trees and picked roots. I shall never forget one tree I couldn't get to fall. I climbed up the tree with a rope around my waist. I sat on a limb and tied the rope around the tree. Down I came to put the horses on the rope and down came the tree. The three of us, the horses and I, made the right turn, so the tree missed us.

Early in the spring of 1940, my family moved to a farm in the Warburg area, which had belonged to Mrs. Dora Case. I stayed at Tomahawk, however, because I was working for a school teacher, Mrs. Dan McGinn, at the Romano School. My dad came back on July 1, 1940, from Warburg by horse and two-wheeled wagon to get me. I recall crossing the Berrymoor ferry and facing the sun all the way to Warburg. Did I ever get a sunburn on my face!

On July 7, 1940, I met Reinholt Knopp. My sisters told me, "You wait! You'll be Mrs. Reinholt Knopp." After seeing him, I told them, "Never! He's got such big hands. No way!" But I did marry him on Jan. 29,

1941, in my parent's home.

We lived on the Olsen farm at Warburg. While living there, our first daughter, Evelyn, was born on April 1, 1943. Today she is Mrs. Herbert Saunders of Nanaimo, B.C. She and her husband run a Gradall Operation building mountain roads and digging ditches and basements. They have three children: Lena, Adline and Howard.

Then we moved to Turner Valley where Reinholt worked on oil rigs, as a derrick man. Then came our second child, Erwin, on May 18, 1944. He, too, was born at Warburg. My mother was the doctor and nurse for our Evelyn and Erwin. Now, Erwin and his wife, and children, Darryl and Lee-Ann, own a business called Gemini Industries, which is a machinist shop where he builds and designs specific items for industry.

Then Reinholt went to Devon to work with the oil rig while we made our home on a farm owned by Edwin Knopp at Thorsby. While on that farm, our second daughter, Adline, was born on January 2, 1948. She is now Mrs. Dale Roesler of Calgary. Adline and Dale have two children, Amy and Tyler.

Our last child, Wilbert, was born while we lived on the John Knopp farm at Warburg, on April 1, 1949.

Today Wilbert lives and works in Calgary.

During the late '40's, Reinholt's job as derrick man took him from Devon, to Warburg, to Counsel, Sask., then to Robsart, Sask., and finally to Creston, B.C. At Creston, in 1952, Reinholt decided to try his hand in the forest industry and became a tree faller. This job took him to Malakwa, B.C, while I remained in Creston with the four children.

I remember one incident very well. I wrote Reinholt telling him that the children and I were coming with the car, a 1934 Oldsmobile. In the meantime, he answered my letter warning me not to take a chance with that old car! But I did not receive the letter before I left, so I packed the car full of clothes, bedding and kids and left for Malakwa. I had lots of faith in that old car.

I had never driven over a mountain road before. Don't ever think I wasn't worried! The first thing that went wrong was the car got hot, but I used some water to fix that. Next, about 100 miles later, I got a flat tire. The trunk was packed full and tight and the spare tire was underneath everything. I unloaded the trunk and found the tire. Just then a couple of men stopped and changed it for me and away I went. I drove until I came to the high mountains where it was snowing a very wet snow. The windshield wipers had to work very hard to keep the slush off the windows. All at once, the wiper on the driver's side flew off. I stopped, and luckily, I found the wiper and managed to get it on. And away I went with my four children. When I got to Malakwa, Reinholt was waiting for me at the door saying, "I wrote and told you not to take a chance." But there I was anyway.

In 1970, we moved our mobile home from Creston to Thorsby, and then to Calgary for three years. Today, we are back in Warburg. Since my family is all grown up, I spend a lot of time sewing and knitting, as well as keeping house. All of these things I love doing. My favorite is sewing for little children, especially my grandchildren.

THE ARTHUR SCHMIDT STORY

by Art and Irma Schmidt

Arthur Schmidt was born on Sept. 30, 1925 in Wolynia, Russia. He came to Canada with his parents Rudolf and Erna Schmidt (nee Grohn) in 1928. In 1931, the family moved to the Morrowdale district, onto his grandfather's farm, and in 1933 to their own farm.



1944 Nash car with Edwin Sontag, Herb Rasch, Art Schmidt and Albert

As there was no school in the area, Art didn't start school until age 11 and completed 7 grades by the time he was 15. At the age of 11, he played cornet in the Morrowdale Church band with his father.

His father was away from home a good deal with the plastering trade so Art took over as man of the farm at an early age. He always liked the outdoors, and knew all the birds by their songs and the type of nests they had, as well as their eggs. In winter he had a trap line catching many weasels and rabbits, by which he made a little money. He shot squirrels, too, with a sling shot. These skins brought only 10¢ each, but because there were so many it was still worthwhile. With the sling shot he also shot many a grouse or partridge which was a tasty treat.

Besides taking over much of the farm work he went plastering and stuccoing with his father. When they got a tractor in 1945 and a threshing machine the next year, he went out threshing for the neighbors. In 1949 he bought his own farm from Mrs. Lydia Sontag. It is NE 8-48-1-W5.

There was always energy left for a ball game and there was many a friendly game with Fisher Home, Mulhurst, Dniester, Fern Creek and Thorsby. Art usually was known as "Schmiddy".

Irma Zierath was the daughter of Albert and Hanna Zierath (nee Rehband). She was born in Babajurt, Machatchkola, near the Caspian Sea, on June 10, 1935. Because of war and unrest in Russia the family moved several times and lived in places like Halbstadt, Meleradowka and in Boschedarovka-Dnieperpetrovsk, where Irma had her early years of school.

In late fall of 1943, all the German people were evacuated to Poland where they lived for about a year but had to be on the move again in January 1945. They landed near Liepzig-Sachsen (Germany) and lived there until September 1952. There Irma had most of her education, which included one year of teacher college.

For political reasons, the family fled from East Germany to West Germany. From there after living in different camps, they immigrated to Canada. They sailed from Bremeshafen in the spring of 1953. It was a long tiring train ride from Halifax to Kelowna, B.C., their new hometown where they didn't know a soul.

The whole family worked for about a year in a fruit orchard. Since Irma was the eldest of eight, she worked at different jobs to help support the family. Irma kept house for an elderly English family and learned to speak the English language. She also worked as a waitress and in a hospital.

Irma decided to visit her aunt whom she hadn't seen since 1943 (since they had left Russia). The aunt lived in Leduc, Alberta and this is where she met Art Schmidt (at a New Year's celebration). Some correspondence took place between Kelowna and Edmonton, and the two were united in marriage on October 18, 1957. They settled on Art's farm in the house that had been built by the Sontag's.

They started farming with a cow, some calves and 8 sows. Besides farming, Art worked on different jobs, as there wasn't enough income from the farm. The first winter that they were married, Art worked for Hobart Dowler cutting logs for his many log buildings.

Their first son Edgar was born October 12, 1958 and another son Timothy, a year later, September 30, 1959. As the family grew they needed more room, so they added a porch and bedroom. A furnace and plumbing was installed. A third son Garth was born November 6, 1962 and their only daughter, Louise was born February 24, 1968.

Since Art was away working so often, Irma looked after the farm chores. At one time she milked 10 cows, had a lot of pigs and always raised chickens, ducks and geese. As they bought more land, Art devoted more time to farming. Most of the land was in bush and had to be cleared and broken. In addition Art used to rent some land. The boys helped out with a lot of the farm work. The boys learned to operate farm machinery at an early age.

On April 14, 1977 Art made a major change in the farm operation. They had a machinery sale and rented the land out to Arlin Farms. They kept all their livestock and pastures. Edgar is going to university now and Tim is working with his father doing some stucco work and feeding cattle. Garth is in grade 11 and Louise is in grade 6.

Art and Irma opened their home to foster care in 1972. A boy, age 7, Joseph Walter Napinak (Billy)has



Art and Irma Schmidt with sons L. to R.: Timothy, Edgar and Garth, and daughter Louise. Dec. 1977.



Two foster children of the Schmidts; Lorna Hamelin and Joseph (Billy) Napinak, taken in 1978

been with them now for 2 years. Lorna Rose Hamelin of Edmonton spent 2 years with them too. Lorna is living with her natural mother now.

ERVIN AND ELLA SCHMIDT STORY

by Ella

Both Ervin and I have lived in this area most of our lives. Ervin came to the Strawberry district with his parents, Ed and Martha Schmidt, when he was just a youngster and attended Strawberry school. My parents, Rudolf and Erna Schmidt, came to the Morrowdale area when I was a baby and I have lived here ever since.

Although Ervin's and my parents were not related, they knew each other, but Ervin and I never met until about 1948. We were married in Morrowdale on July 2, 1952. Wedding receptions were usually held at the bride's home so we put up a tent to extend the garage to accommodate the guests, a good percentage of whom were named Schmidt. The food was prepared at home with the help of relatives and neighbors.

Erwin had an 80 acre farm next to his parents' home and this is where we lived for the first months of our marriage. In October of that year we took up my parents' offer to rent their farm. We lived with them until their house in Edmonton was built. They moved in the spring of 1954 just after the Calgary Power was turned on (Mar. 9) and our first child, Dorothy, was born April 23rd.

We were full-time farmers from the time we started to farm and have had very little off-the-farm income to help us along. One winter Ervin and his brother-in-law, Arnold Krueger, worked for Hobart Dowler at Mission Beach. They moved rocks from the shores of Pigeon Lake to the site of Rundle Mission where they were used in it's construction. They used the nearly new Minneapolis U tractor and a sleigh for the job. At one time, the ice began breaking up behind them and they just barely got the tractor and sleigh back to shore.

In order to have some regular cash income we added more cows to our original five so we milked 8 to 12 cows at first by hand. The milk was separated and fed to the livestock and the cream sold to a creamery.



Wedding of Ervin and Ella Schmidt July 2, 1952 in front of the stone garage on her parent's farm.



Home of Ervin and Ella Schmidt. House was built of rocks found in the district by her father Rudolph Schmidt.



Rudolph Schmidt and his brother Albert building a stone fence at the Ervin Schmidt farm in 1975.

Oh, that cream separator to wash every morning!

We had one sow and her litter when we started farming and for the next 20 years there were always hogs on our farm. A flock of about 100 laying hens supplied our needs with some eggs left over to sell. We also raised chickens and ducks for meat. All this meant a lot of chores and it was hard work. Besides, we had a

large garden and I canned the vegetables, pickles, fruit and jams we used. I was overjoyed when we got our first deep freeze. That is one thing that doesn't cost any more today than it did in the 'fifties. I also churned butter and baked bread and whatever baking we used. Add to this the care of three pre-schoolers - without benefit of plumbing or running water. We didn't worry about what to do with our leisure time!

I mentioned 3 pre-schoolers. Our second daughter Noreen was born in January, 1956 and the third daughter Rita was born in September, 1957. That fall my brother Art and Ervin bought their first combine. Art and Ervin did a lot of the farming in partnership the first years, but later each went their separate ways.

The church was always an important part of our lives and from 1952 to 1964 I was one of the organists at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Morrowdale playing an old pedal organ. Services were often held at 9:30 A.M. so there was no sleeping in on Sunday morning! There were chores to be done as well as get dinner on as we often had company for Sunday dinner. Then the girls had to be dressed. Well dressed little girls wore long white stockings - held up by a variety of contraptions invented by the mother. Bless the person who invented leotards.

Ervin played in the Thorsby brass band until it disbanded. We both enjoy singing and sing in a choir whenever there is one we can join. I continued to play the organ at St. Matthew's until 1967. We've always taken an active part in the church and community affairs in whatever ways we could be of help.

Our only son, Lorne, was born November 6, 1961 and a year or so later we did some remodelling on the house - the same one my father built back in 1938. We put in a coal stoker furnace and installed plumbing. Before this, we heated the house with coal and wood stoves or heaters. We also had such heaters in many of the outbuildings such as the garage, hog barn, pumphouse and tank heater. One winter the two of us had no less than 7 of these stoves to tend. About this time, too, we got our first telephone - the kind with a crank and 13 families on the line. Everyone had centennial projects in 1967. One of ours was building a larger hog barn. We still milked some cows but gradually switched to a beef herd. We also disposed of our laying hens and bought eggs from a neighbor. In 1971 the hogs hit a low of 19.2¢ per lb. and a high of 26.8¢ a pound.

Another event that year (1967) was the birth of our fourth daughter, Christine, on September 10th. She was a bright and healthy little girl until she came down with an apparently light case of the measles just before Christmas, 1974 (she was immunized as a baby). About the middle of January she became ill again and had to be hospitalized. She was found to have a virus infection of the brain. She lapsed into a coma and remained that way for a week, until her death on January 31, 1975. She is buried in the Morrowdale Cemetery.

We rented the land for a time and then bought the



Family of Ervin and Ella Schmidt. L. to R.: Rita, Dorothy, Ella, Ervin (mother and father) Noreen. Front Row: Lorne and Christine. Dec. 1973

two quarters from my parents (NW 9-48-1 W5) where we now live, and SW 16-48-1-W5, just across the road. Ervin had been renting another quarter near Mission Beach, for a number of years and, in 1971, we bought that as well.

In 1974, we made a major change in our farming operation. We converted the hog barn to a laying barn for 2800 Leghorn hens in cages. We sold all the dairy cows and for the first time in 40 years there are no cows to milk. There are no hogs on the farm either, but we have a small herd of beef cattle.

The children attended only Thorsby schools for their elementary and high school education. Living 8 miles from town added up to many hours of riding the school bus. All three girls went on to graduate from the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose (a 2 year course). Dorothy studied further to become a school teacher and is presently teaching at Pipestone (R.R. 2, Millet).

Noreen was a recipient of the Hotelman's Scholarship in 1976. She graduated from high school in 1974 but did not apply for the scholarship until two years later when she started university. Her classmate Randal Bensen received the award in 1974. This scholarship of \$700, together with some smaller awards, paid a good portion of her first year of university at Camrose Lutheran College. She is now a third year education student at the University of Alberta majoring in Home Economics.

Rita is a parish worker in a Lutheran church in New Westminster, B.C.

Lorne is a Grade 12 student at Thorsby High School and lives at home. He was the Grade 11 student from Thorsby chosen to attend the United Nations Seminar at Camp Goldeye in August 1978.

We've had a good life in this community and more than likely will retire in this area when that time comes.

RUDOLF AND ERNA SCHMIDT

by daughter Ella Schmidt

Rudolf Schmidt was born March 23, 1897 in Wolhynia, Russia, son of Peter Schmidt and his wife Wilhelmina nee Koenke. He was the sixth child in a family of four boys and four girls. His father was a farmer as well as a stone mason, so Dad was up early every morning, herding sheep and cattle all day. His mother taught him to read and he also went to school. He developed a love for books and, at age 12, learned the art of bookbinding. He made a little money mending old books and binding new ones.

His father often took him along when he was laying bricks and stones, so he learned that trade as well as plowing and harrowing the fields and cutting rye with a scythe. Cattle stayed in the barn and were watered inside all winter. When his older brother went to war this job was passed on to Rudolf. He made a sort of yoke that fitted his shoulders and hung a pail of water on either side.

He also learned to play the cornet and was overjoyed to play in a band with older men. As a teenager, he accepted Christ as his Savior and lived all his life as a Christian.

During World War I, his family had to leave the farm and become refugees. They lived for a time in the province of Astrachan. There at age 18, he became a shoemaker--making new shoes and fixing old ones to supplement the family income.

My mother, Erna Grohn, was the daughter of Adolph Grohn and his wife Maria (nee Drews). She was born Aug. 29, 1902 in Wolhynia, Russia. Her father had emigrated from Russia to America in 1912, intending to send for his family later on, but World War I intervened and the family was never reunited. My grandmother, then, had to raise six children on her own, so my mother, too, worked hard at an early age. She was a servant for a year and worked incredibly hard-doing all the heavy labor of feeding livestock, binding sheaves, etc. from dawn to dusk without adequate warm clothing in the winter time.

My parents lived in different villages in Russia and had never met until mutual acquaintances decided they would be a good "match". He was 27 and she was 22. It was arranged for the two to meet and they must



Rudolph and Erna Schmidt 1950. Back Row: Art, Linda Krueger, Emma Provence, Sieghard. Front Row: Father Rudolph, Ella Schmidt and Mother Erna.

have fallen in love. The next time Dad went to see Mom (he walked the 50 miles) was to celebrate the engagement. At this time he wrote a love poem for his betrothed. Later, he framed it and it is still hanging in their bedroom. They met for the third time on their wedding day in Jan. 1925.

Dad's sister Otthillie (now married to Henry Werner) had emigrated to Canada (Bruderheim, Alberta) earlier and helped her brother Albert to come over in 1927. The Gustave Werners, former neighbors, who had left Russia for Canada in the 1800s, worked out the papers, while other relatives and friends provided the funds to bring my parents to Canada in 1928. By this time, they had two children, Arthur, born in September 1925, and Linda, born September 1926. On their way to Bruderheim a third child, Emma Lois was born in Schreiber, Ontario, September 3, 1928.



Family group at home of Adolph Grohn. L. to R.: Linda Schmidt, her uncle Robert Grohn, Rudolph Schmidt, son Art, Adolph Grohn, Emma Schmidt, Mrs. R. Schmidt holding Ella Schmidt.



Rudolph Schmidt family on their 50th wedding anniversary, 1975.

They lived in Bruderheim for 3 years where Dad worked as a plasterer, stone mason and farm hand at harvest time. I was born there in April 1931 and that same year we moved to the Grohn farm NE 7-48-1 W5. We lived in my grandfather's log house with him and his son, my uncle Robert.

Meanwhile, Dad bought his own farm from the CPR NW-9-48-1 W5, and began building our own log house. On Mar. 2, 1933, their youngest child Sieghard Samuel was born, by then they were also able to move into their own home. They moved on May 1 with a sleigh as there was still snow on the ground, and was easier than with a wagon. There were no roads and there was mud everywhere. The men wore rubber boots most of the time. These boots had laces and were similar to the leather work boots we have now.

There was little money and no jobs available, so Dad busied himself clearing brush from the land. Dad and 4 other men cleared 10 acres each for Wm. Krueger who in turn, broke 10 acres for each of them.

In 1934 Dad got his first plastering job--the house of Rudolph Price of Calmar. He plastered 3 more houses that year all in the Calmar area. From then on, he spent part of each summer plastering, stuccoing and brick laying. This meant that Mom had to run the farm during his absence. As soon as we were able to help we had our jobs to do. Since Art would do the field work, and sometimes went along to give Dad a hand, the chores were left for the girls to do. I learned to milk a cow at the age of 7. Even a very young child could fill the wood box. Hay in the meadows was cut with a scythe and the children raked it with homemade

wooden rakes.

Keeping the family clothed and fed is always a difficult task and was even more so when money was scarce, there was no refrigeration and no supermarket around the corner. We milked cows which supplied us with milk, butter and cottage cheese. A large garden was planted--mainly potatoes and root crops which kept well in the root cellar. There was also the ever-present barrel of sauerkraut. Wheat was exchanged for flour--rye as well as white. Barley was coarsely ground at the local mill for use in soups. Dad had a passion for soup and insisted on having it served at least every other day. If you asked him the secret of a long life, I'm sure he'd give some credit to the soups he enjoyed so much. We also ground a variety of grains for our own brand of "Sunny Boy" cereal. Pork was usually cured and smoked for the summer. We also made large amounts of sausage. Later, when money was available to buy jars, a lot of the meat and sausages were canned for the summer. In winter it was frozen and left outside in "the meat box". Every farm had a flock of chickens. If we wanted chicks, we put eggs under brooding hens to hatch. Flocks were not large and, when a nice fat hen was butchered, it was a treat as well as a welcome change in our diet. Our food was simple and basic but we were never hungry and we were healthy.

Mother used to spin all the wool and knit it into mitts and socks for the family. She sewed most of the clothes for the girls. A "bought" dress was something special.

To my parents, care of our spiritual life was as

important as our physical well being. Most mornings the family gathered for Bible reading and prayer. Before a church was built, services were frequently held at our home. When the church building was completed, Dad organized a church band as well as a choir. Art played in the band when he was 11 and, later on, Linda and Emma joined in the band too.

My parents bought an organ and all the girls as well as brother Sig, learned to play it. Often, we would gather around the organ and sing the old gospel hymns, Mom leading with her beautiful soprano, Dad singing tenor, and the rest of us singing along or harmonizing as we were able. We had our very own choir!

By 1938, Dad was able to build a larger house. This one was also a log house, but 1½ stories, finished with stone on the outside. It was so well built that my own family is still living in it. To heat the house Dad built a stove of brick covered with tin, in the centre of the house. It was circular and reached to the ceiling--heating the living room, bedroom and kitchen. A pipe through the middle warmed the upstairs. We burned wood in it (coal did not burn well). With the large door, we could use larger, odd shaped pieces of wood. The stove was used until the early 1960's when it was removed and a coal stoker furnace installed.

Mom was kept busy all winter stoking the stoves while cutting and hauling the wood was a never ending job for the men. The wood then had to be split, and carrying it into the house kept many a child out of mischief.

The men also logged every winter, and gradually more buildings were put up--a barn, large granary, in 1945 a stone garage and later a stone milk house, which also had a room for storing ice. Someone at Pigeon Lake cut the ice into blocks with an ice saw and this was stored in the well-insulated room. It kept most of the summer and was a good refrigerator where we also stored our cream before shipping it.

They also planted a lot of trees around the yard and garden. There was also a large garden and many flower beds. The task of trimming the trees and hedges, digging the flower beds, cutting the lawn was for Mom and the girls to do, with help from brother Sig as he grew older. The pruning was done with shears and hand saw, digging with a spade and the mowing with a push-type lawn mower.

Gradually, Dad bought machinery to make farming easier. He purchased a binder, seed drill, tractor and threshing machine. However, he never drove a tractor or operated any of the machinery. He drove a car and truck but was never a mechanic. Whenever he had trouble with a vehicle, he took it to a garage.

Dad was a meticulous bookkeeper. He has a record of every building he ever stuccoed or plastered. The total from 1934-59 was between 400 and 500 buildings all over central Alberta. He also has a record of the money he received from each job.

Art frequently went along with Dad on his jobs and later Dad hired a number of men. Some of the men boarded at our house. Dad had also put an upstairs in the garage so hired men and threshing crew slept there in the summer and fall. We also had a lot of company so there usually was a full table to partake of Mom's good cooking.

We children grew up and went our separate ways. Linda married Arnold Krueger in 1944. Emma left home to work in Edmonton. Sig wanted to become an architect and had to go to Winnipeg for his schooling. I married Ervin Schmidt in 1952. We rented the farm from Mom and Dad and came back to live with them that fall. They began building their house in Edmonton then, and moved into it in 1954 just as the Calgary Power came to our area.

Dad continued to plaster and stucco but after 1959 no longer had a big crew. He then devoted his time to building fire places, planters and stone fences. He built around 250 of these from 1959-75. His work was in great demand and his health permitted him to do this work until past his 78th birthday.

In Jan. 1975, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and in early summer Dad decided our stone house needed a stone fence to complement it. He proceeded to build one and completed it in record time. Later that summer he suffered a stroke which left him partially paralyzed. With typical persistence he worked at his recovery, and can walk, with the help of a leg brace, can talk and look after himself. He learned to print with his left hand. Over the years, he wrote his life story in poetic form, and still adds to it from time to time. He also keeps busy by making macrame coat hangers at the rate of two or more a day. Mom is still able to look after Dad and the house. She doesn't have as many houseplants as she used to, but still has many lovely flowers and looks after them herself.

They both attend their beloved church regularly, and, until recent years sang in the choir.

Emma married Philip Provence in June, 1956. They have three daughters and make their home in Kalispell, Montana.

Sieghard married Lucille Walker in October, 1957. He is an architect who lives and works in Edmonton. They have two sons, Tyler and Trevor.

Art married Irma Zierath also in October, 1957, and they live on the former Sontag farm just a short distance from the home farm. Linda and Arnold Krueger and their family also live nearby.

My parents have a total of 19 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Since most of us are in this area, we get together fairly often. What better way to live your sunset years, than to be surrounded by your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

THE PHILIP SONTAG FAMILY

by Toni Sontag

Philip and Lydia Sontag (nee Stroschein) married

in June 1904. They left Wolhynia Russia on their honeymoon to Canada. Until 1911 they lived in Winnipeg. After that they moved to Edmonton and lived there for several years. The Sontags lived in different places and Leduc was one of them.

In 1927 the family moved to the Thorsby area, where Mr. Sontag bought a farm. They lived on the Nick Martinoff place before they moved onto their own in 1928 which was located in the Morrowdale district (NE 8-48-1-W5).



Philip and Lydia Sontag, 1945.

By now the Sontag family had increased. Times were bad and work was hard to find. There was little money and a lot of things were needed. In sickness or in health, they had to make do and it was in times like those, that neighbors helped each other out.

Mrs. Sontag was the midwife in the Morrowdale neighborhood and delivered over 25 babies.

The Sontag place used to be center-point for ballgames and practices. Their pasture served as a ball diamond and Mrs. Sontag always treated the players with homemade cookies.

Mr. Philip Sontag died in March 1947.

In 1949 Mrs. Sontag sold the farm to Art Schmidt (Art is still living on it). Mrs. Sontag then moved to Leduc and lived there until her death in June 1964. Mr. and Mrs. Sontag are both buried in the Morrowdale Cemetery.

There were 15 children in that family; two of them died very young.



The family of Philip and Lydia Sontag, 1964. Back L. to R.: Robert, William, Edwin, Gustave, Ewalt, Ruebin. Front: Adina (Sontag) Kuhn, Dorothy (Sontag) Hartman, Rosemarie (Sontag) Blumhagen, Elsie (Sontag) Willis, Amanda (Sontag) Muckle.

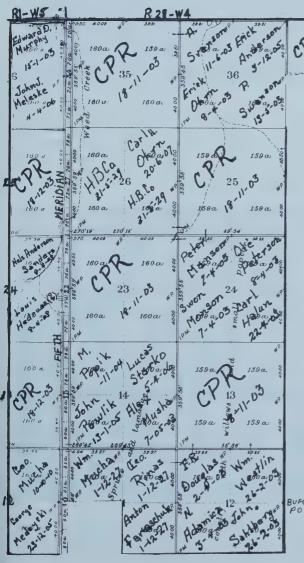


Seated: Edwin and Toni. Back: Lowell wife Delphine (Proc) Calvin. 1972.

- 1. Amanda married Harry Muckle and has 3 children, 2 sons and one daughter, Norman, Mark and Theresa. They live in Vancouver.
- 2. Johanna married Ted Schultz. They have one son Marvin and one daughter Marlene. Johanna died in 1937.
- 3. Daniel married Martha Kisser. They had 2 daughters and one son, Betty, Beverly and Murray. They live in Sylvan Lake. Daniel died June 2, 1962.
- 4. Robert married Elsie Branton and has one son and one daughter, Robert and Judy. They lived in the Morrowdale district. Elsie died in February 1951.
- 5. Elsie married Jim Willis, and has 2 sons and one daughter, Jim, Edward and May. They live in Edmonton.
- 6. Bill married Helen Purves. There are 6 girls in that family: Sandra, Patricia, Joan, Susan, Cyndey and Shelly, and they all live in Devon. Bill died in Mar. 1979.
- 7. Ewald married Evelyn Mortimer and has one daughter Lorraine and lives in Devon. Ewald died in 1978.
- 8. Rueben married Edith Branton and has 2 daughters and 2 sons, Audrey, Ellen, Douglas and Keith, and all live near Warburg.
- 9. Gus married Florence Halladay, and has 2 sons, Philip and Donald, and live near Thorsby.
- 10. Adina married Walter Kuhn, and have 3 sons, Gordon, Howard and Norman. They live near Leduc.
- 11. Edwin married Toni Keller and have 2 sons Lowell and Calvin. They live in Leduc.
- 12. Dorothy married Bill Hartman and has 4 sons and one daughter, Philip, Robert, Diana, Rick and Brian. They live near Thorsby.
- 13. Rosemarie married Gus Blumhagen and has one son Clifford. They live near Galahad.



Progress School, 1923.



Progress
School District No. 1009

The First Homesteaders & Grants to the CPR

The Information on this Map
Courtesy of:
Alberta Prov. Archives
and
Alberta Gov't Map Division

HISTORY OF PROGRESS SCHOOL DISTRICT #1009

submitted by Donald Ohrn

Prior to and around the turn of the 20th century an influx of families from North and South Dakota and Minnesota moved into the Calmar area and westward. There were no roads, land had to be cleared, buildings erected and through neighborly co-operation the district advanced. The pioneers of that time saw the need of schools and churches, and despite the fact that each family had more than enough work, they found time to co-operate in community affairs.

The formation of the Progress School District #1009 became a reality with the first officially recorded meeting on Oct. 12, 1904 with Pete Swanson as Chairman and Wm. Westlin as

Secretary-Treasurer.

Alberta was not yet a province and all jurisdiction in education rested with a Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

On Nov. 28, 1904 the Board of Trustees sought the approval of the Commissioner to issue a debenture in the value of \$400 for the purpose of building a 20 x 24 log school house on the N.W. 23-49-28-W4. Having received permission to proceed the Board called tenders and on Feb. 10, 1905 3 tenders were considered with Israel Helgren successful with a bid of \$235

On Mar. 31, 1905 a special budget meeting set a tax rate of $4\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ an acre to cover all probable

expenditures.

In just over 2 months Mr. Helgren had completed the building and on Apr. 19, 1905 the Board inspected the project and instructed the Secretary-Treasurer to pay Mr. Helgren his bid price of \$235.00. A Board meeting on May 8, 1905 authorized the purchase of desks, blackboard, globe, maps and any other necessary supplies and to begin communication with a teacher agency. At this point the Board ran into a snag. Teachers were not plentiful and for the years 1906 and 1907 an arrangement was made with Willow Creek School District for pupils to attend school.

At a Board meeting on Dec. 23, 1907 Miss Ida M. Svenson became the first teacher at a salary of \$60.00 a month. Teachers following Miss Svenson were Maggie Douglas, H.S. Holm, Mona Spalding, E.C. Coupland, Mr. Stenhouse, George L. Davies, Thos.

H. Wrigley and Margaret Kain.

In the period from 1908 to 1920 the Board had 9 teachers and in this interval, school was closed at times because of road conditions, inclement weather, W.W.I., the flu following the war and at a Board meeting on June 19, 1911 a school holiday was declared for the Coronation of George V on June 23, 1911.

By 1920 W.W.I. was over, the flu of 1919 had subsided and the Board did not encounter as much difficulty in getting teachers. Lorna Saunders, Jack Kinsey, Fred Wesenberg, Mrs. Agnes (Sandstrom)



Progress School in 1913. Pupils were, Back Row L. to R.: Elmer Swanson, Mr. Coupland teacher, Fred Popik, 2nd Row: Metro Babiak, Mary Mucha, Laurence Dent, Andrew Babiak, 2 unidentified, Mike Mucha, Front Row: Powlik girl, Emma Swanson and Hildur Ohrn.

Dixon, Mrs. Beulah Hale and Gertrude Dittrich were the teachers in the era up to June 1930. Salaries ranged

in the \$900 a year bracket.

In 1929 further changes, with the coming of the railroad and the village of Thorsby developing, necessitated formation of the Thorsby School District and realignment of school boundaries. The annual meeting of the Progress School District on Jan. 15, 1930 approved the change in school location to the S.E. 26-49-28-W4 and giving the extreme western portion of Progress School District to Thorsby School District. A new school with a basement was erected and school opened at the new location in Sept. 1930 with Bertha Dittrich being the first teacher. Teachers following Miss Dittrich were Jim Munn, John T. Shaw, Kathleen Moore, Effie Davidson, Gertrude Dittrich and Russell Petterson.



Progress School about 1937. The school won a cup at the fair that year.
Miss Moore was the teacher.Pupils: Doris Forbes, Mary Formos,
Norma Dorn, Elsie Harrish, Stella Rybie, Stella Hanas, Millie
Horkulak, Mary Rybie, Marie Dorn, Ruby Forbes, Emily Harrish, Helen
Hanas, Helen Kozmuk, Jean Forbes, Livia Harrish, and Olive Pearson.



Back row: Miss Gertrude (Dittrich) Riebel, Marie (Dorn) Phillips, Stella (Hanas) Bogus, Helen (Babiak) Fryk, Donald Ohrn, Ralph Ohrn, Harry Nacuk, Walter Petterson. Second row: Katie (Klymko) Pankewicz, Ruby (Forbes) Peck, Stella (Rybie) Koziol, Paul Hanas (deceased), Edwin Dorn, John Rybie, Peter Rybe Third row: Jean (Forbes) Ruff Mike Pawlick (deceased), Helen (Hanas) Zima, Mildred (Fedor) Sych, Rosie (Koznuk) Guzda, Rosemarie (Sturko) Halwa, Steve Mucha, Nick Hanas. Front Row: Olive (Pearson) Davies, Betty (Sturko) Pasula, Frances (Mucha) Graves, Dolores (Pearson) Johnson, Mary (Jakowicki) Wawryk, Olga (Hanas) Frost, Steve Nacuk, Garry McMracken.

In 1942 another change affecting Progress S.D. was the coming of the large School Division, and in that year Progress ceased to exist as a separate body and became part of Strawberry School Division. Teachers at Progress under the new jurisdiction were Russell Petterson, Doris Campbell, now Mrs. Don Ohrn, Ruby Richards, now Mrs. Ernest Kvarnberg, Frank Neid Jr. and Mrs. Pasula.

With the coming of school busing the school was closed in 1955 and later moved to Calmar to become the Calmar Legion Hall.

One of the highlights in the late 1930's was the annual School Fair in Thorsby. Progress pupils under the guidance of Effie Davidson and Gertrude Dittrich submitted exhibits and when the judging was completed Progress had won the greatest number of prizes and amassed the greatest number of points for 3 consecutive years to permanently hold the challenge cup donated by Joe Ruzicka, Thorsby's Druggist.

No history would be complete without giving recognition to the people, who spent many hours and days making things happen, and an old minute book with well kept records indicate to me that our modern day politicians could look back and take a lesson from our pioneers in the conduct and dispatch of business. Records show the first signatures in the Minute Book to be Pete Swanson and Wm. Westlin with other trustees and Secretary-Treasurers throughout the years being Erick Ohrn, Wm. J. Dent, Nels Sanders, Ole Patterson, R.F. Mahood, Peter Monson, J.J. Meleske, Swan Monson, Walter Sahlstrom, Carl

Holm, Alex Petterson, John Petterson, Nick Nacuk, Orland Simmons and C.H. Ohrn. Despite the pioneer times the minutes indicate some degree of stability on the Board with Nels Sanders serving 4 years as Secretary-Treasurer, Alex Petterson 6 years as Secretary-Treasurer, Erick Ohrn 22 years as trustee and chairman of the Board and Carl 'Herb' Ohrn serving 4 years as a trustee and from 1918 to 1942 as Secretary-Treasurer.



Progress School, 1946.Back Row: Natalie Fedor, Bob Pearson, Betty Pearson, Olga Pawlick, Alex Pawlick and Donald Lees. 2nd Row: Sophie Jackowski, Sophie Dedio, Valoria Sereda, Nick Pawlick, Larry Sendziak. 3rd Row: Francis Babiak, Fred Pawlick, Walter Huber. Front Row, Dennis Sereda, Gordon Swanson.

The last official Board of Trustees of the Progress School District consisted of John Petterson as Chairman, Carl Herbert Ohrn as Secretary-Treasurer and Orland Simmons as Trustee.

Another highlight for Progress School District was the belief in progress. The Board in 1937 was instrumental in getting Thorsby, Progress and Fruitland School Districts amalgamated into a High School District where Grades 10, 11 and 12 could be taught. This was the first High School west of Leduc and in Sept. 1937, High School classes with Ken Brown as teacher opened in the Thorsby Lutheran Church. In 1938 classes were moved to the new United Church and in 1942 a new school was erected under the Strawberry School Division. The Board of Trustees of the Thorsby High School District consisted of John Rolston - Thorsby, Harry Dunlop - Fruitland, and C.H. Ohrn - Progress.

PROGRESS SCHOOL

by Mrs. Hale (written in her 86th year) 1978

I went to teach in Progress in the fall of 1925. The log building was condemned and they had props on each side to hold it up. There were 49 pupils enrolled.

There was a small building we used for a barn in which to put the horses that the children drove to school.

These children were divided into 8 grades; there were 6 in grade 8.

In the spring, I suggested they take the 8th grade test which required \$1 per capita to have papers graded. They came back with the report, "I'll know just as much without the exam", and they wouldn't pay!

I talked it over with Mr. Hale and he said, "Tell them a ratepayer will pay for the test", and he did. Only one failed by a small margin.

The building was so cold that the snow never melted during the day at the back of the room. The



First Progress School in 1923.

old-fashioned desks were double and not fastened down so I let the children move them close to the stove as long as they were quiet, but if they caused trouble they moved back to their own place — cold or not

During the 20 years I taught I always opened up the school with "The Lord's Prayer". When the bell rang, the children lined up by the door and marched in

In those days some of the children didn't know the English language when they started school so there was a big sign in the room saying "You must speak English."

The inspector came shortly after the term began. He was going to give a demonstration of physical education with all sizes. He said, "Boys line up on one side, girls on the other according to size, small ones in front." There was one little girl and one boy who couldn't speak English. Being in front he said, "Count down the line saying 1, 2. Pointing at the little girl he said, "One". She began to count to 10. The same happened in the boys line. He had those two sit down and watch while he carried on.

Our games were baseball, Ani-I-Over, Dare base, and Fox & Goose. On bad days we would play inside; Winkum, Ruth & Jacob. Bringing home what I borrowed.

Sometimes, when the weather was warmer so they could make snowballs, I'd dress up, go out, make a line in the snow and tell them not to cross that line. Then I'd go and stand 25 or 30 feet on the other side of the line and tell them to try to hit me. Very seldom were they lucky.

At Christmas time we always had a concert consisting of plays, songs, dialogues and recitations. Between stage changes, Mr. Eric Kvarnberg and Mr. Clee Hale would play the violin and guitar for entertainment. I always saw that each child received a present. We had to carry our drinking water (which was put in a large container with a faucet on it) from Mr. Nacuk's.

Wages in those days were only a percentage of wages today.

I went to school on horseback until there was snow, then I drove a cutter through fields and took all the children that were on my route.

MICHAEL AND ROSIE BABIAK

submitted by Sophie Rains

In 1903, our folks Michael and Rosie Babiak, immigrated from Hruszowice, Ukraine, to Canada. They came by a small boat, and it took about five weeks to sail across the ocean. The voyage was rough, and Mother and Andrew got very seasick. They came to this country to find a better life for they had heard that they could buy a lot of land cheaply. Living conditions were poor where they came from, and it



First old buildings with sod roof on M. Babiak farm taken in 1923 with oldest daughter Anne in front.

was over-populated.

On their arrival in Canada, they stayed at George Weslowsky's, about seven miles from Leduc, for a short time.

Then Dad took up a homestead quarter section of land for \$10.00, 1½ miles southeast of Thorsby. Five more children were born there - Metro, Anne, Mary, Sophie, and Cora. The farm is where grandson Sam Babiak and family are farming today.

It was all bush. There were no railroads, fences, or roads - only a few trails. They didn't know where to begin to build, but decided to build where the buildings are now. After it was surveyed, they discovered that they had built in the middle of the section, so the buildings were half a mile from the road when it was built. They built a one-room log cabin with a sod roof and a clay dirt floor. The floor was swept with a broom made out of willows.



Creek in front of Michael Babiak home. The clothes were rinsed on washday in this creek. When heavy rains caused it to overflow, the family had to use a raft to cross it to milk the cows on the other side.

The furniture was all home made, with the exception of the stove which was fired with wood. Dad and mother cut all the wood by hand. We used kerosene for lights. The rest of the buildings were all built from logs - logs which Mother and Dad cut by hand and skidded with oxen.

After a few years, Dad went to work on the railroad. He also helped build the High Level Bridge in Edmonton. There was no other income and wages were very poor. The farmers helped to build the roads to pay for their taxes.

By then, Metro was born, so mother would stay home with the two boys. She cleared land by hand to grow vegetables and grain for the chickens. She cut the grain by hand with a sickle, and tied the sheaves with twisted grain. When it was dry, Dad would thresh it with a flail.

The cattle were running at large, so when they didn't come home for milking, Mother would listen for the cow bell to find them.

We had a nice creek going through the yard, so we had lots of water for the cattle. We all learned to swim in it, too. The folks dug a well by hand for drinking and cooking water, and cribbed it with wood. They pulled the water up with a pail tied to a rope.

There were bears around, and they would climb on the house and scratch at the sod roof. A lot of times, they would go down the well and upset the milk and cream.

In 1906, Dad built a three-room house with an attic, with the help of our good neighbors the Harrishes, Muchas, Powliks, and George Meditsky who was a carpenter. It was a log house chinked with mud and whitewashed. It had cedar shingles and wood floors. All the children were raised there, without the benefits of a crib, high chair, buggy or anything fancy. A home-made cradle was used for all the babies.

We had a one-room school house four miles north of us - the Progress School. That's where we all received part of our education. The winters were cold and there was lots of snow. Sometimes we couldn't get to school on foot, so we had to go by sleigh and horses. Sometimes we would miss a lot of school. We later switched and went to Weed Creek School, which was only 1½ miles south of us. At recess, we would play softball, hopscotch, and fox and goose in the winter, along with other games.

The most interesting part of school was the Christmas Concert. We all looked forward to it, and took part in this special event. The parents would all come to see what we had learned, and Santa would give out goodies.

With all the bush around us, we had a lot of forest fires. Our only fire protection was a pail of water and a sack. All the neighbors would help to keep the fire from spreading to the buildings. We were all very lucky that no one was ever burned out in our community.

Our closest general store was at Buford, five miles away. It was operated by the Anderson family.



1925 M. Babiak home. Rosie Babiak, and her 4 daughters: Sophie, Cora, Mary and Anne Babiak.

When we had any grain, live stock, or posts to sell, we would take it to Leduc with a team. It was 20 miles away. We would make the return trip in one day, providing we started early in the morning and came home late at night.

By then, we had more land cleared by hand and horse machinery. We would take the wheat to Leduc to have it milled into flour and cereal. We always made our own bread.



Michael Babiak family in 1927. L. to R.: Metro, Anne, Sophie, Mary, Rosie, Cora and Michael.

Our nearest doctor was in Leduc. With poor transportation and no cars, most babies were born at home with the assistance of a midwife. Our mother delivered a lot of babies in our community. Rain, shine, or snow drifts up to the hips, the stork came at any time. I remember George Meditsky coming across the field with a lantern to get Mother. She delivered all their children.

Mother would dye flour sacks, and make the girls dresses by hand. It wasn't until later years, that Dad bought a sewing machine at an auction sale. The oldest girl, Anne, would do the sewing. Washing clothes was done by hand on a wash board, using home made soap,

and rinsing in the creek.

The first car in our neighborhood was bought by Geoge Meditsky. It was a touring Ford. Mr. and Mrs. Clee Hale had the first radio - a crystal set - which we listened to using ear phones.

We belonged to the Ukranian Greek Orthodox Church, and attended services when they were held about once a month. The church was 3 miles east of Thorsby, and was later moved into town.

Dad was quite a book worm, and read a lot of books and newspapers. He also read the Bible every day. He used to deliver mail from Jacob Madiuk's home to Dnipro. He went on horseback, or sometimes with a buggy. He did this for a few years before 1928 until the post office came to Thorsby.

The Babiak family was quite talented musically. Andrew used to play the accordian, and his son Joe followed in his footsteps and plays quite a few instruments, and has his own orchestra.

Sunday afternoons, the young people would gather at Bill Mucha's or at Weed Creek School. We played ball and games like "Drop the Handerchief" and "London Bridge is Falling Down." No one had cars, but everyone enjoyed themselves. We had dances in local schools and halls, with pie or basket socials. We raised money for different things.

At Christmas, we went carolling with a team and a sleigh. We raised money for a library and other things.

After the first world war, there were a lot of people sick with the flu. We were all sick and most of our neighbors were too - with the exception of brother Andrew. He did all the chores at home, and then did the neighbors chores while they were sick.

In 1929, the railroad came through where Thorsby is now. We took all our produce to town to sell. By then we were milking about 25 cows by hand, and separating the cream and selling it. We made our own butter and cheese. We had lots of our own vegetables, and made three barrels of sauerkraut every fall.

In 1930, the Depression hit, and things weren't too good. We always had enough to eat though. We butchered our own meat and poultry. We cured and salted our own pork. Because we had no refrigeration, we kept our cured meat in a flour sack and covered it with grain.

Andrew went to work in a coal mine. Some of the older girls would go to Edmonton to earn extra money to buy their clothes.

In 1930, Dad passed away at the age of 59. Mother stayed with son Metro until her passing in 1955 at the age of 82. Andrew married and moved ½ mile south of Thorsby where Matt Babiak and family farm now. He passed away in 1971 at the age of 68. Metro passed away in 1962 at the age of 58. Mary passed away in 1972 when she was 63.

The survivors are Anne Svanborg of Vancouver, Sophie Rains of Summerland, B.C., and Cora Morris of New Westminster, B.C. There are twelve grandchildren and thirty-two great grandchildren at the time of writing.

THE HISTORY OF BILL AND GRACE BABIAK

After John and Bessie Babiak passed away, sons Bill and Dan took over farming the home place. Helen and Sophia, Bill's sisters, were also at home. Nick left to work in Edmonton, Bill's sister Anne had left quite some time before.

On Nov. 1, 1939 Bill married Grace Larson of Buford. Grace's parents had the General Store and later the Post Office in Buford. On Sept. 23, 1940, Bill and Grace's first child was born, a baby girl named Francis Margurite. In 1941 Bill bought the north 80 acres and Dan bought the south 80 acres. Each one bought half the cattle and machinery from the Public Trustee and so again owned the home place.

On Feb. 28, 1942, Allen Roy Phillip, their first son was born. That same year Bill bought a tractor and rented a quarter of land, as 80 acres wasn't enough from which to make a good living. Sister Sophia left the farm in 1940, and Helen in 1942 to work in Edmonton.

Bill and Grace were blessed with 4 more children; Marion Gail was born in a car with a flat tire, enroute to the hospital June 10, 1944; Harvey Wallace was born Jan. 5, 1946; Gloria Jeanne was born Feb. 28, 1949; Donna Mae was born May 9, 1950.

To get ahead, Bill and Grace rented the quarter section of land across the road belonging to John Winner. The land was rented for 2 years. On the second year the bumper crop was snowed under. That year the threshing was finished on Dec. 10 in 10°F. weather. Then the farmers' strike hit hard with 55 head of cattle and no sales. The feed ran out by Christmas and hay had to be bought and hauled in by sleigh until May 2nd. Grace's brother Leslie Larson worked on the farm that year helping with chores. Leslie continued to come to the farm during busy times to help out, after moving to the city and getting married.

In 1951 brother Dan Babiak moved to Edmonton to work, so his 80 acres was purchased by Bill and Grace which was another step ahead. In 1952 the polio epidemic hit, 3 of Bill and Grace's children were stricken. Marion Gail died of polio at the age of 9½ years, a city doctor felt it was the flu and didn't even hospitalize her. Allen and Donna were in intensive care for 2 weeks but in time recovered fully.

In 1950 Elmor, Grace's oldest brother, was killed in the Leduc Hotel explosion. In 1953 Oscar Larson, Grace's father passed away, and Bernard, Grace's younger brother, was killed in combat during the Korean War.

Bill and Grace had several years of crop damage from hail. One year the hail came down so suddenly that Grace and son Harvey who were outside at the time had to run into the pig barn and stay until it let up. That year they were 100% hailed out. That weekend Leslie came out to the farm and asked why they disced the crop under as that's how bad the hail was. For the

next 3 years they were hailed out 50%.

Bill, Grace and their children belonged to the United Church in Thorsby. The children went to Progress School two miles away from the farm. Progress School went up to Grade Eight. Allen was janitor there for several years. He bought himself an accordion with his earnings. When Francis started Grade 9 in Thorsby there was trouble getting bus service for only one child on a two mile stretch of road. They eventually succeeded. One Christmas when money was scarce, Bill built a sleigh for the children, it was a replica of a green grain wagon on sleigh runners. Bill and Grace took the children to school by pulling the sleigh behind the car or Leslie with horses behind the big sleigh several times, it was different and fun. Bill's carpentry work gave the children hours of pleasure. In 1958 Progress School closed down and the children had to be bused to the Thorsby School.

In 1958 disaster struck, while cutting clover for hay on a wet field Allen lost his arm in the power take-off on the power mower. After a lengthy recovery in the hospital and at home, the Calmar Lion's Club bought him his first artificial arm, hook and hand. The Thorsby Lions put on a benefit dance for him, to help finance his education. Allen went to Olds Agriculture College for two years. During Allen's stay in Olds, he met an uncle who gave him a car — a 1948 Ford. He came home almost every weekend to help on the farm. Allen graduated from Olds and went to work for the City of Edmonton Parks and Recreation Department for the summer. Francis graduated from Thorsby High School and then from McTavish Business College. Harvey graduated from Thorsby High School and went to N.A.I.T. for 3 years taking drafting and surveying.

Weekends were now full of bustle with Bill and Grace's children and their friends coming home for the weekends to help hay, harvest or just enjoy the farm freedom and home cooking. Grace's brother Wayne often came as well for the weekends with 5 or 6 friends. There were always about 20 or so people to cook for, but it was fun.



Barn on Babiak farm which was purchased in Leduc and dismantled, then rebuilt.



Bill Babiak family, 1964. Back Row: Harvey, Bill (Dad) Allen. Front Row: Grace (Mother), Jeanne, Francis and Donna.

In 1960 Bill and Grace bought 80 acres of land from Mrs. Paul Adamic. They now had over 200 acres under cultivation and 50 head of cattle, 20 of them were milk cows. The children helped with the chores before and after school. Allen learned to drive the tractor at 8 vrs. of age when his dad built a hand clutch on the tractor so he could operate it. At 9 yrs. of age Harvey won a wrist watch from the Eaton's Good Deed Club, when someone wrote in about how he got up one morning at 4:00 A.M. to get the cows to make sure the chores were done. He did not know it was that early, as his dad was in the hospital and his mother was there with him. Allen and Harvey belonged to the Thorsby Cadets and Allen won 1st in riflery. Jeanne sang in many talent shows winning a 1st prize trophy in Leduc, and Thorsby, and also singing at the Glenrose Hospital in Edmonton.

Bill bought a hip-roof barn from what is now the Leduc Golf course, He dismantled and rebuilt it again on the farm. The building was 30 ft. wide by 66 ft. long. In 1966 with the help of his family, Bill built a 3-bedroom home, with propane heating, electricity

and running water.

Donna graduated from Leduc High School and Jeanne went on to McTavish Business College. Jeanne and Donna both went to work for Alberta Government Telephones. In 1968, due to ill health, Bill and Grace sold the farm and moved to Leduc. Bill went into housing development. He moved in 3 houses from Edmonton and remodeled them, each house taking about 2 months. They rented out two houses, and lived in one. In 1972 they moved in 2 more houses from Edmonton. They redecorated and rented one. Harvey bought the other house. Later the town didn't allow houses to be moved in so they bought, redecorated and sold houses. Houses were doubling in purchase price in just a year. Luck was with them. Grace has also worked at many different jobs since moving to Leduc.

The family has always loved the lake and the outdoors, so it was Bill's dream to have a family cottage on the lake shore. In 1972 they bought a lake shore lot, on Pigeon Lake and together with the family they built a family two-storey, six bedroom cottage at Gilwood Beach, known as Fisher Home, close to the area they grew up in. They have a boat; play horseshoes and spend many happy hours there. The cottage is owned jointly by Bill, Grace and the family.

Bill and Grace sold all their properties and bought a new house in Leduc. They are semi-retired but still help their children with carpentry on their own homes

Their eldest daughter Francis went to work for C.N. Telecommunications where she met Jim Rychlo. They were married on Oct. 17, 1964. Francis and Jim have 3 children — Caroline Gail, James Murray and Sandra Dawn. Francis and Jim live in Edmonton. Allen works for Edmonton Telephones. Allen and Nola Collingwood were married on July 6, 1968. They have 2 children, Todd William and Kirk Norman. Allen and Nola live in Leduc. Harvey married Linda Peck on Sept. 5, 1970, they have one son, Bradley Boyd.

Harvey passed away Feb. 15, 1976. Linda and Bradley live in Leduc. Jeanne and Bob Hope were married Aug. 17, 1974. They have one girl Bobby Jeanne and one on the way. Jeanne and Bob live in Leduc. Donna and Mervin Bennett were married June 12, 1971. They have one boy, Craig Mathew and one adopted boy, (Merv's sister's) who passed away in 1977. His name is Riel Mervin Bennett. Donna and Merv live on an acreage about 5 miles east of Ponoka. There are horses on the acreage and the family enjoy gathering there as it revives memories of the farm.



Bill and Grace Babiak.

THE JOHN DORN FAMILY

John Dorn was born in Alsace-Lorraine, France in 1889. They were a large family and at an early age each child had to find work. When John was 14 years old he came to St. Paul, Minnesota with his sister Anna who was 16, and 2 older brothers. Some of his other brothers and sisters went to South America and they lost contact with each other, never to see or hear of them again. When Dad (John Dorn) arrived in St. Paul, he couldn't speak any English, only German, so he enrolled in night-school to learn the language.

Dad did many odd jobs before becoming a street car conductor in St. Paul. When he became seriously ill with pleurisy the doctor advised a warmer climate. He went to Arizona and later filed on a homestead near Galata, Montana. He lived on his homestead in the winter and worked for a sheep rancher in the summer. During his bachelor years he told of his first attempt at cooking rice for dinner. Not knowing that rice increased in volume as it cooked, he



John Dorn when he was a street car conductor in St. Paul, Minnesota.

started cooking it in a small pot. He then put some in another pot, then still another, until by the time it was cooked he had about 6 pots full of rice. However, with a few years of practice, Dad became quite a good cook.

His bachelor days ended in 1917 when he married Eunice Provence. They continued to live on the homestead. Dad worked in the woods, cutting logs in the winter to earn extra money, so they could return to the homestead and farm during the summer. This was where the 2 oldest children, Aubrey and Norma, were born.

In 1921, when the dry years and grasshoppers made living there any longer impossible, they came to Canada making their first home on the S.W. 33-27-49 W4 which was owned by Arthur Swanson. While living there they started building a log shack on the N.E. 25-29-1 W5. When it was finished the family moved in and then came the hard work of clearing, breaking the land and root picking. Everything was done by hand with very little hired help.

In 1925 they built a frame house which is still in good condition, because when Dad made anything, he made it to last a lifetime. In 1927 a new barn was built. They also bought a new John Deere tractor that year. By this time, 3 more children were added to the family - George, Marie and Clarence.

All the Dorn children attended Progress School, with Mrs. Hale being the first teacher in 1925-26. The old school was located directly south of their home. Aubrey and Norma could make the walk to school much shorter by walking south and crossing the creek on a log foot bridge Dad made for them. However in the springtime or during heavy rains when the swift running water made crossing too dangerous, they walked around the road, a distance of over 3 miles a day.

Times were hard but when the depression years came, better known as the 'hungry thirties', things became even harder. Mom milked cows and raised chickens to help make extra money. The butter and eggs were sold to people in Thorsby and the money was used to buy groceries at Hoffman's store. Mom recalls one time when she had made a long grocery list of things she needed. She took her eggs and butter to one of her customers, only to be told they would pay her later. This meant nearly all the items were crossed

off her list because there wasn't any money to pay for them.

All the family had to work very hard to help make a living. Norma, being the oldest girl, did the cooking and housework and looked after the younger children. Mom worked in the fields helping Dad and Aubrey with the having, stooking, and threshing, as well as looking after her garden and large strawberry patch. They had a potato patch planted under a hill near the creek, about half a mile from home. It was the younger children's job whenever potatoes were needed, to take a washtub, fill it with potatoes, and carry it home. George, Marie and Clarence usually were elected for this job. On one trip when Marie grew tired, she decided to sit down on a mound of dirt to rest. However, she didn't sit very long because the mound of dirt was an anthill. They had to strip her clothes off to get rid of the ants.



The John Dorn Family: L. to R.: Norma, Mom, Dad, Marie, Aubrey.
Sitting: Clarence and George.

There wasn't any money to spend on luxuries, but the Dorns, Strautmans, Ohrns, and many other neighbor-hood children had their fun down at Weed Creek. They had a swimming hole for a cool refreshing dip during summer. In winter, they would clean a patch of ice for skating. When they grew tired of skating, they would jump on their bob sleds or toboggans, and ride down the Weed Creek hill. If they got cold, they would walk up to the Dorn house, warm up, have something to eat, and then play cards the rest of the evening.

On August 2, 1938 sadness struck the family when Aubrey Dorn and his uncle Howard Provence, who had gone to the States for a short holiday, were both killed in a car accident near Deer Lodge, Montana. However, through the hard times and the sad times there were also glad times and life must carry on.

In 1939, Norma went to Montana to find employment. She took a course in shorthand, found a job, then got married and has made her home there ever since.

When the depression was over, things became easier for everyone. Although there was a war on, the country progressed rapidly. The time of farming with horses was soon replaced by power machinery.

In 1940, Ed Alton, who had always hauled Dad's hogs to Swift's in Edmonton, brought the good news that Dad was to receive a trip to Ottawa, because of the prize hogs he raised. They were trying to promote better hog production. While in Ottawa, Dad was interviewed for a radio program, which was quite an event in those days. It was one evening when Dad was in Ottawa that George and Clarence wanted to walk into Thorsby to see one of Mr. LaRose's shows. Mom was reluctant about letting them go. She didn't want to be left alone because Dad had left her quite a sum of money, in case she needed something while he was away. The boys quickly solved that problem by putting their B.B. gun by the door and saying "Mom, if anyone comes to take your money, shoot them with our gun."

In 1942, George enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was stationed in many places in Canada before being sent to England. While serving in England he met and married June Rowney. He received his discharge in 1946. After a few years of farming he rejoined the Air Force in 1954, and served until his retirement in 1972.

Dad and Mom continued farming until 1956, when Clarence and Maxine, who had been working the farm on a share basis with them for 6 years. decided to purchase it. When Dad gave up his active part in farming, he took an interest in gardening. He also planted a number of fruit trees - apples. crabapples, plums, etc., which most years supply us with an abundance of fruit. Dad was never idle. He continued with his horticultural hobby and helped with odd jobs on the farm until he passed away October 24, 1972. Mom still lives in her little house, keeping herself busy with her flowers, sewing, knitting, crocheting, and needlepoint. She loves to visit George in Edmonton, and Marie at Evansburg, but only for a few weeks, then she comes back to her home on the farm.

Their children are all married. At the present time there are 12 grand children, and 8 great grandchildren.

Norma married Albert Evans. They live at Whitefish, Montana and have 3 children - Jack, Shirley, and Leonard.

George married Rosalee (June) Rowney. They live in Edmonton and have 4 sons - Carl, Dale, Gary and Christopher.

Marie married Bill Bilou and had 2 daughters -Barbara and Linda. Marie is now married to Allen Phillips and they live at Evansburg.

Clarence married Maxine Johnson. They live on the farm at Thorsby and have 3 children - Darrell, Audrey, and Dellis. We often look back and reminisce about the 'good old days', which they must have been in many ways. However we shall never forget the hard work and hardships endured by Mom and Dad in order to make a better life for all of us.

GORDON AND PAT HAY

by Pat Hay

Gordon was born in Edmonton on February 29, 1940 and lived on a farm near Onoway until 1958. He joined the PPCLI armed forces and became a paratrooper. After two and a half years he transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers where he obtained his mechanical training which later gained him his mechanics licence.

In 1959 we met and in September 1961, we were married. My maiden name was Pat Brink. For the first three and a half years of married life we were transferred back and forth from Kingston, Ontario, for short mechanical courses with the army. In 1964, my husband got out of the army and started working at International Harvester. He worked there for 13 years until the fall of 1977. He then commenced work with Vern Muth Sales in Thorsby.

In February, 1968, our daughter Laura was born and in July 1972, our son Bradley was born.

In the fall of 1973 we started looking for a farm and decided on this area because of the black soil and closeness to the city. The next spring we found our farm, it was the NE 13-49-28-W4 and the $N\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW 13-49-28-W4, 240 acres in all.

This farm was owned by Les and Florence Will and was originally owned by Bill and Grace Babiak. The Babiaks had built the house we now live in. We moved onto the farm in April, 1974.

The whole farm was in hay that year and we put up over 11,000 bales that summer, stooking and stacking by hand. We started our herd of cattle that summer



Gordon and Pat Hay, 1972, with children Laura and Bradley.



Bradley and Laura Hay, 1976.

with 6 head, and with me buying a few cows at a time, as my husband was working out, we worked our way up to 25 cows and now have a herd of 65 head of cattle.

We gradually worked the land up and seeded our first crop in 1975. The next year we rented the Sam Adamic farm. In the spring of 1978 we sold the 80 acres (N½ of SW 13-49-28 W4) to Dennis and Colleen Dennehy of Edmonton. They plan to build a house on it and live there with their family.

For a person who knew nothing about farming, I have come a long way. It is a lot of hard work, but we enjoy our life on the farm.

GEORGE AND MARY MUCHA

by their son John

George Mucha was born in Austria in 1865. Maria Chura was born in 1871, also in Austria. Both were of Ukrainian origin and they were married in Austria.

In 1901 they immigrated to Canada with their 3 children, Annie, Katie and Nick. For a time they stayed with John and Annie Sych (Maria's sister and brother-in-law) on a farm 6 miles west of Leduc. They had two more sons, Mike born in 1902 and myself, John, born on Sept. 1, 1905, the day on which the province of Alberta was incorporated into Canada.

In October of 1905 they settled on a homestead, the NE 12-49-1 W5 approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of what is now the village of Thorsby.

Records indicate that in 1906 they had broken 3 acres of land; in 1907 they broke another 3 acres and had put a crop on the first 3. In 1908 they cleared an additional 4 acres and had cropped 6. They had also accumulated 10 head of cattle, 2 horses, built a log house 16 x 28 ft., two stables, a pig pen and a granary.

A daughter Mary was born in 1907 and another daughter Effie was born in 1910.

During the summers George worked on a C.P.R. railway gang. In the winter months he would cut down trees and haul them to Leduc where they were sold for

telephone poles, fence posts, etc. He also hauled lumber from the mill when he had an opportunity. While he worked on the railroad Maria and the children would put the crop in and cut grass for hay with a scythe for the cattle.

Their house was built of logs, the joints and cracks were filled with a mixture of clay, water and chaff. The roof was made of poplar or spruce rails covered with sod. The rails were not nailed down and I recall the day a big black bear climbed on top of the roof and started to paw so that the rails separated. They were very frightened inside as there were no men around. Mother asked us to kneel in the corner of the cabin and pray.



Mrs. George Mucha by their home.

In 1911 George, our father, was in the woods with my 14 year old sister Annie, cutting logs when a falling tree struck him and killed him. He was 46 years of age. The family, Mother and 7 children (the oldest was 14), were destitute, so the older children left to earn their keep by working for neighboring farmers. Mother was left with myself aged 6, Mary aged 4 and Effie just over a year old. She later married Louis Stanko. Maria, our mother, died on the home place in August 1935.

A brief history of the family.

Annie worked in various places including the General Hospital in Edmonton, she never married and served as a domestic for two generations for a well known family in Calgary. When she retired she returned to the Edmonton area to be closer to her family. She passed away in Dec. 1976.

Katie married Harry Horkulak and had 3 sons, Andrew, Ken and Jim and 2 daughters, Mildred and Mary. Mary died as a child. Harry worked as a coal miner and later farmed in the Calmar-Thorsby area. He passed away in 1962. Katie lives in retirement in Edmonton.



Burial of Mrs. George Mucha. L. to R.: Katie Mucha Horkulak, the priest, Suzanna Mucha, Mike Radowits, Olexi Mucha, he was the brother-in-law of the deceased. Harry Horkulak husband of Katie.



John and Suzanna Mucha and children, Helen and George in 1932.

Nick was a bachelor. He worked in coal mines, on the railway gang, at lumber mills and his last position was with the Northwestern Utilities in Edmonton. He passed away in Edmonton in Feb. 1967.

Mike spent most of his life working as a waiter. For many years he was employed by the Macdonald Hotel. Later he worked in the United States Army mess at Namao. He still works part-time at the Students' Union Building at the University of Alberta. He was married and has one son Howard and a daughter Marion. He is now semi-retired in Edmonton.

I worked on a C.P.R. railway gang as a teenager and also in a garage in Leduc and for various farmers around this area. At the age of 22 I married Suzanna Yurkowski and moved to the Strathcona district where I worked for many years as a coal miner. From 1939 to 1959 I operated my own coal mine in the Ellerslie district. In 1943 I bought a farm at Ellerslie and farmed it and ran a feedlot for several years.

I am semi-retired in Edmonton but still farm at Ellerslie. Suzanna and I have 2 children, a daughter Helen and a son George.



Miss Effie Mucha in 1929.

Mary married John Stashko in 1927. They farmed all of their lives in the Thorsby area and raised 3 sons, Dennis, James and David. Her husband John passed away in Dec. 1978 and Mary lives in retirement in Thorsby.

Effie, our youngest sister, was a lovely girl with black hair and blue eyes. She worked as a waitress in Edmonton for a short time and passed away at the age of 19 years.

NACUK AND TECHER FAMILIES

by the family

Nick Nacuk and his second wife Lena Techer came from B.C. to the Thorsby area with 5 children in 1923, when their oldest child was 10. They had come from the Ukraine to B.C. - Nick in 1905 and Lena in about 1910.

They bought a C.P.R. quarter NW 23-49-28 W4, which had no land cleared on it. They lived in a tent while a log house was put up with the help of some neighbors. The nearest neighbor was one mile away on NW 14-49-28 W4 — Mr. Blok and family.

Later, they bought the SW 23-49-28 W4 with the fraction along the west side of their land. The children did not have far to go to school, as the Progress School 1009, a log building, was already on their land before they bought it.



Their first home.



Nick, Lena and Steve Nacuk.

The 5 children were: Bill, Pete and Mike Techer and Fred and Walter Nacuk. Three more children were born to them - Harry in 1924, Martha in 1926 and Steve in 1930. Martha died at the age of 2. Nick died in 1954 at the age of 70 and Lena died in 1965 at the age of 74.

Bill Techer married Louise Macdonald and they live in B.C. They have 2 children, John and Carrol.

Pete Techer married Winnifred Holland and lived on the SE 26-49-28 W4, the quarter the New Progress School was on. They have 3 children. Maureen Holland has a home on the site of the school yard. Brian Techer is in Vancouver. Allan Techer married Karen Rybie and they have 2 girls and live on the farm. Winnifred died in 1965.

Mike Techer married Anne Mankow. They have 3 girls (Sharon, Betty, and Dianne) and they all live in the U.S.A.

Fred Nacuk married Jean Knight and they live in B.C. They have 2 children, Bob and Betty. Betty married Daniel Schiller and they have 2 girls.

Walter and Steve are bachelors and farm in the Thorsby area.

Harry Nacuk lives on the home place. He married Jurdis (Pearson) Forsburg and they have 5 children; Gail Forsburg married Garry Stenzil and they have 4 girls and 1 boy and live in Edmonton. Marsha Forsburg married Myron Mishio. They have 2 girls and live in Nanaimo, B.C. Jodi Forsburg married Anthony Smith. They have 2 boys and a girl and live in Leduc. Marianne Nacuk lives at home and in Edmonton, and David farms with his father.

CARL HERBERT OHRN FAMILY

Growing up in a new land always brings a multiplicity of new experiences. Carl Herbert Ohrn, son of Erick and Mathilda Ohrn was born in Columbus, Ohio on April 2, 1887. Alma Sandstrom,



Mr. and Mrs. Herb Ohrn in 1960 with grandchildren Norman and Ingrid.

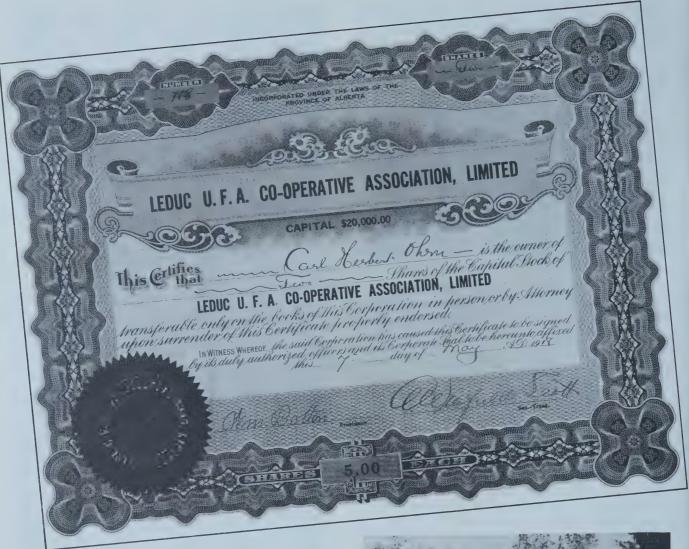
who became Herbert's wife in 1922 had come to the Calmar area in 1899 when the Sandstrom family left Rutland, North Dakota.

The original Ohrn homestead was the S.W. 36-49-28-W4 and on June 15, 1907 Herbert gambled his \$10 homestead fee against the future. The parcel selected was the N.E. 26-49-28-W4 which in 1978 is the Ohrn farmstead. Herbert and Alma settled in a new home after their marriage in 1922. The house and barn had been completed prior to 1922 but there was still a great deal of hard work ahead. Land clearing by hand was slow and tedious and only a few acres each year could be done. In Nov. of 1923, Donald, the first of two sons, arrived and Ralph was born two years later.

The ten dollar gamble in 1907 was not the last gamble against the future of farming. As land opened up Herbert bought a new Case steamer and Case threshing machine. As one of the earlier large scale threshers in the area, Herbert did custom threshing from Leduc to Telfordville. In the early days threshing was from the stack. The grain was put in bags and weighed. As time went on Herbert changed the high bagger to a low bagger with a scale, eliminating the use of bags. Threshing was not the only business venture. The Benson boys, Albin and Oscar came from Sweden in 1907 and shortly after that Albin and Oscar Benson and Herbert Ohrn set up the Strawberry Creek Sawmill Co. and sawed and planed lumber from Sunnybrook to west of Warburg. The founding of the United Grain Growers Ltd. in 1907 saw Herbert active in selling shares to local farmers in the territory from Leduc and west. Another Co-op in Leduc in which the Ohrns were involved was the Leduc U.F.A. Co-operative Association (1918). Membership in other Co-operatives included the Blindman Valley Hog - buying Co-op (1935), Progressive Forage Crop Seed Growers Association (1942), and the Calmar Co-op Association (1946).

Politically Herbert was active within the United Farmers of Alberta when that body governed Alberta from 1921 to 1935, and with the emergence of Social Credit, Herbert became an active member of the new political force that was to govern Alberta for the next 36 years.

Herbert was a member of the Northen Alberta



Pioneers and Old Timers Association and received his life membership from that organization. The work within the Progress School District is recorded in the history of that district.

The life of a pioneer meant the learning of all the trades at hand and Herbert could be described as a journeyman, carpenter, blacksmith, horse-shoer and steam engineer while his wife Alma knew all of the household trades of the time. The era of the Great Depression of 1929 - 1939 was a difficult time for everyone, but any passerby walking the road was given a meal before moving on. Alma Ohrn passed away in Dec. 1965 and Herbert in Sept. 1974 ending an era of life that saw the district develop from complete bush to a modern farming community, an era that saw the destruction of two World Wars, the flu epidemic of 1918-10, the depression of 1929-1939. We must all admit that the parents of that time in the twentieth century displayed a lot of fortitude, faith and hope that their families would carry on where they left off.

Donald and Ralph received their high-school education with Ralph going into teaching and Donald



Residence of the Herb Ohrn family, built in 1918.

attending Olds School of Agriculture and then back to the home farm.

Ralph began his career in 1946 at Funnell near Breton later moving to Sunnybrook, Alder Flats, Mirror and for the last number of years in Edmonton presently teaching at Bonnie Doon Composite High School. In 1948 Ralph married Mary Arthur of Thorsby and they have three children Douglas, Susan and Jocelyn.

In 1950 Donald married Doris Campbell of the



Doris Campbell and Donald Ohrn's wedding in Aug. 1950. Attendants were Vickie Campbell, Sheila Hughes, Sharon Campbell and Walter Boddy.

Strawberry District and they have a family of two: Norman and Ingrid. In July, 1978 Norman and Carol Kirchner were married and Norman is engaged in farming with his father raising hogs and registered Herefords. Ingrid is following in her mother's footsteps and is presently in her third year in the Faculty of Education at the U of A.

Donald has been active in a number of farm organizations beginning with participation in the Thorsby Grain Club under District Agriculturist, Peter Wyllie. In 1946 with the organization of the Thorsby United Grain Grower's Local Donald was named secretary and remained in that capacity until 1976 as well as serving as secretary-treasurer of the Calverly Mutual Telephone Company for 25 years and since 1974 has been the County of Leduc delegate to the United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Annual meeting. Three years, 1966-1968 were devoted to being treasurer of the Telfordville United Church Pastoral Charge.

As a swine breeder Donald is a charter member of the Alberta Swine Breeders Association.

With the technological changes in farming, the homestead is just home base for a much larger operation that sees the Ohrn family in the same area for close to 80 years and encompassing four generations.

ERICK AND MATHILDA OHRN

by Dolores (Pearson) Johnson

My grandfather, Erick Ohrn, was born April 9, 1860 in Gavle, in the province of Gastrickland, Sweden. My grandmother, Mathilda Eliasson, was born August 20, 1861 in Morrum, in the province of Blekinge, Sweden.

They both sailed for the "New World" where they met each other, fell in love, and were married on March 4, 1885. During their years in the United States, they lived for a short time in Pennsylvania (where Erick worked in a tannery), before moving on to Columbus, Ohio. Here he worked in a steel

smelter. He soon found that this type of work wasn't healthy for him, and they moved on to Pierre, S. Dakota. Here he tried his hand at farming. Grandpa became a U.S. citizen on July 28, 1896.

While in S. Dakota, they lived near an Indian settlement or reserve. Grandma was a practical nurse and midwife. Although the squaws were always alone for their deliveries, they always let Grandma attend them immediately afterwards. They had a tremendous rapport with the Indians and were even invited to their pow-wows. Grandma often told the story of one pow-wow where some meat was passed around, and she chewed and chewed on it. Finally she asked a squaw what it was and was told that it was puppy meat. It was discreetly put in her apron pocket and disposed of at home.

During their stay in the United States they had 7 children born to them. Their first child, a little daughter, Anna, a blue-baby, born late in 1885, lived only minutes. Their second child, Carl Herbert, was born in Columbus, Ohio on April 2, 1887. He was followed by Gustaf Albert on July 27, 1889. Harry was born on May 7, 1892 and died on Sept. 8, 1898. Henry Warner was born in Pierre, S.D. on January 19, 1894. Axel was born on March 23, 1896 and died January 23, 1897. Fred Edvard was born on February 17, 1898.

Grandpa's parents were Anders and Karen (Berg) Ohrn and he had 5 brothers and 3 sisters, all of whom eventually came and settled in the States. Richard was the only brother to come to Alberta. He followed 8 years later. His story is in the Warburg "Golden Memories" book.

Grandpa, Grandma, and their 4 boys, Herb, Gust, Henry, and Fred, left S. Dakota by covered wagon along with the Pete Swanson family, and headed for "Sunny Alberta" in April of 1900. They crossed the border at Portal, North Dakota on May 10, 1900. Pete Swanson was Grandma's brother. He took the name Swanson after coming to the U.S.A.

Upon arriving in Alberta they filed and settled on their homestead on the west half of 36-49-28 W4. Here they built a little log house about a half mile north of where the present yard is. This log house stood until 1939 or so. This little home was blessed by the birth of a little girl, Hilma Elvira, on February 2, 1901. What a joy it was to have a girl after 6 boys! But the promised land dealt a real blow later that year, for on the evening of November 23, little Fred died of diphtheria, and before sun came up the next morning. little Hilma died of scarlet fever. What heartbreak for these two people, who had only 3 children left. Grandpa made two little caskets, Grandma and Auntie Christine lined them, and Grandpa took them out and buried them on the farm, where their graves are to this day.

The next year was much better, and Grandpa broke some more land, had a fair crop and saved some lumber, so that late in 1903 they were able to start building the frame house that still stands (at the time of



L. to R.: Eric Ohrn, unidentified man, Matilda Ohrn, Herb Ohrn, Albert Westlund, Fritz Larson and Henry Ohrn.

this writing). On December 20 that year, my mom, Hildur Amelia, was born. The family moved into the big new house early in 1904.

This home became 'Ohrnville' as the post office was located here for several years. It was also the end of the telephone line. The telephone was installed in 1911. Elections were also held in this busy household. There was always a lot of politicking and Grandpa and Uncle Pete would argue by the hour. Pete would go home "never to come again" - at least until the next day!

Gust Albert, who had always had a bad heart, passed away in 1910. Before this, the Swedes had gotten together and built the Swedish Lutheran Church and Cemetery, so he was buried there. By this time Herb and Henry were grown up and worked out a lot. Herb was a steam engineer and worked out threshing and in lumber camps. Henry spent a short time in the army, but was rejected because of his glass eye. He lost his eye some years before when he injured it playing with scissors.

Herb and Henry both went to school in the States. Mom went to Progress School and for the eighth grade stayed with friends and attended Donald Ross School in Edmonton.

The "Ohrn Place" was one of the stopping places between Leduc and 'out west'. The door was always



Ohrn's barn with Eric on right side of door.

open to all passers-by. Sometimes the house overflowed, but there was always room in the hay loft. Lack of space prevents telling any of the many stories about this aspect of their lives.

Times were looking up and in 1916 Grandpa was able to purchase his first car. They went to Edmonton to get it, and he made Mom drive it home. He said he was too old to learn and that 13 was just about right.

Grandma still carried on her midwifery, and I still have and cherish a beautiful old milk jug given to her by Mrs. Dahl of Glen Park as a thank-you for helping deliver one of her children over 70 years ago.

These pioneers saw only 3 of their children grow up and marry; Herbert to Alma Sandstrom, daughter



Eric and Matilda Ohrn.

of pioneers of the Calmar district, Henry married Ellen Johnson of Minnesota, and Hildur married Algot Pearson. Their individual stories all appear elsewhere in this book. As of this writing, their descendants number 20 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, and 10 great great grandchildren.

Erick passed away in January, 1930, and Mathilda in September of 1935. They are both buried in the Swedish Lutheran Cemetery - now the Willow Creek Community Cemetery.

Mathilda had 1 brother, Gust Swanson, who made his home with them. He never married, and when he died he was buried in the family plot.

The name Ohrn means eagle (orn, with two dots over the 'o') and was bestowed on one of our ancestors during a war between Sweden and Russia in which said ancestor performed some heroic deeds. To differentiate between the bird and a human being, the King decreed that the letter 'h' should be inserted. This famous ancestor was known as the 'longa orn' because he was such a tall man.

THE ALGOT PEARSON FAMILY

by Dolores (Pearson) Johnson

The Pearson family story starts with the marriage of my parents Algot Pearson and Hildur Ohrn. My mother's history previous to her marriage is covered in the Erick Ohrn story elsewhere in this book.

My paternal great-grandfather, Erick Pearson, filed on his homestead, SE 36-49-27-W4, in 1895. He built a little log house about 30 rods north of where St. Margaret Mary's Roman Catholic Church (Calmar) now stands. He then moved to California in 1902, with his wife and family, (except for Magnus who had married Augusta Lindberg early in 1899) and filed on his own homestead NW 2-50-27-W4.

Grandpa Magnus was born in Hede, Harjedalen, Sweden, and Grandma was born in Hoffman, Minnesota of Swedish emigrants. Magnus and Augusta had 9 children born to them. My dad, Algot, was the oldest, born on December 9, 1899. He was the first male baby born among the homesteaders in the Calmar district.



Algot and Hildur Pearson's wedding picture, April 30, 1927.

Hildur and Algot were married on April 30, 1927 in Grandpa Ohrn's home. There were 60 guests for the reception, and most of them stayed all night as there was a terrible blizzard, and the snowdrifts were just too much to tackle after dancing half the night.

Mom and Dad started their married life on the "Dalton Place", NE 30-49-27-W4. Daddy built a new bungalow-type house there to replace the old house which then became a barn. While they lived on this farm they were blessed with a baby daughter, Olive Laverne. They lived on this farm until 1930 when Grandpa Ohrn died, and then they moved to Grandma Ohrn's to live and care for her as she was 69 by this time. Many people have lived on the "Dalton Place" both before and since, including Richard Dalton himself, when he spent the last few years of his life there. That farm is now owned by Mike and Natalie Stachnick.

After moving to Grandma Ohrn's, I was born in 1931. Things were pretty uneventful during this time. The depression was setting in, and people were finding more and more ingenious ways to stretch a dollar. How little they knew, times were to get harder yet. We kids, in our ignorance, didn't realize for a few



On horseback in 1938 Dolores, Olive, Betty and Bobby Pearson.

years that money was short, except that there were an awful lot of things that we couldn't have, both in stores and from the catalogue. We were very happy that Grandma Ohrn was there, and a better playmate two little girls couldn't have. Not only did she knit dolls and toys for us, she participated in all our pretend games, and drank numerous cups of 'tea'. The few Swedish words that I can remember were learned during this time. Uncle Herb and Auntie Alma lived close by, so we had two big boy cousins to play with. Money really didn't matter.



Matilda Ohrn and 6 of her grandchildren, Ralph and Donald at back.
Twins Betty and Bobby Pearson on lap. Left Dolores and right Olive
Pearson.

In the spring of 1935 there was a very exciting event at our house. Mom had twins - Betty Ann and Robert Stanley (Bobby). I can still remember the night that they were born. It was April 8, and we had a real howling blizzard. Daddy phoned Dr. Hankin, and he and Uncle Henry started out from Thorsby with the team of horses and sleigh. They had to leave them at Ken Foys' north of Thorsby and walk the rest of the way, because it was just too hard on the horses. Talk about the dedication of country doctors! By the time Dr. Hankin arrived, Betty had already been delivered by Grandma Ohrn. Bobby required much more help, and when he finally came, Dr. Hankin almost gave him up for dead. Grandma literally willed that child to live, by blowing into his mouth until he started breathing on his own. To think, we really didn't hear anything about mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until the 1950's. I remember Daddy coming to Olive and me in the middle of the night and saying "Do you know what we have?" I promptly answered him, "I don't know, but throw those squeaky cats out so I can sleep." You can imagine how thrilled we were when we were called out to the kitchen about 5 A.M. and found Auntie Alma and Grandma sitting in front of the open oven door, each holding a baby. This was quite a milestone in Grandma's life, for in all her years of midwifery, this was the first set of twins that she had helped with. It was also the last birth that she attended.

Along about this time, Mom won \$100.00 on an Army and Navy Sweepstake. What a windfall! It bought so many things - flannelette for diapers and nighties, clothes for us girls, new dresses for Mom and Grandma, and there was even enough left over to buy a radio.

During the late summer of that year, Grandma's health started failing. As she grew steadily worse, and needed a doctor's care more often, we took her to Uncle Henry's in Thorsby, so that she could be close to Dr. Hankin. She passed away in September. Grandma willed the south quarter to Mom and the north quarter to Uncle Henry. Daddy bought the north quarter from Uncle Henry as he lived in Thorsby and didn't want to farm.

Mom still wasn't well from the birth of the twins and during this time we had various 'hired girls'; Elsie and Violet Larson, Florence Halvarson, and later Christine Workun. I remember Elsie teaching me a little ditty called "There was an old Chinaman in Japan".

Betty got double pneumonia in 1937, and she was in the Royal Alexandra Hospital for a long time. She had only been home for a few days when Bobby lured her outside in the melting snow and mud puddles. Mom had only gone into the dining room for a minute, but that was all it took. That night she was burning up with fever. Thank God for Dr. Hankin - he had her back in the hospital within a few short hours. Come to think of it, I don't think any one of us would have survived if it hadn't been for Dr. Hankin at some time or another in our lives. Betty was in the hospital so

long that time, that she had to learn to walk all over again.

During the '30's, Daddy was away from home a lot in the winters. He worked in the lumber camps out west, and would often walk home from Warburg on a Saturday night if he couldn't get a ride on a sleigh, just to spend Sunday with us. From 1934 to 1938 he and Len Branton of Sunnybrook had a coal mine along the banks of the North Saskatchewan River. They charged \$2.50 a ton for the coal, and out of that had to pay the government 10¢ per ton to Mr. Papirnyk and 10¢ to Peter Zolner as they held the mineral rights. Daddy carpentered too. He and Grandpa Pearson have several buildings in the community to their credit. Two of the real landmarks still standing are the Ernie Hartfelder house and the Stanley Blondheim house, south of Calmar.

People stayed overnight at our place, though not as often as in the 'old days'. Once a bunch of Indians stayed overnight. The squaw asked for anything Mom could give her. She had so little that Mom felt sorry for her and gave her some of Grandma Ohrn's old dresses, which seemed to make the squaw fairly happy, but she really wanted a little blue and white striped bowl. It had come from the States and was kind of a keepsake and Mom wouldn't part with it, so she told her so. When the Indians were gone so was the little blue and white bowl. This really upset Mom as nothing had ever been taken before, and she never had any reason to distrust anyone before that.

The '30's were memorable for a lot of things and one of them was the bad roads. We met everyone that ever travelled the "Blind Line" at some time or another, I'm sure. It seems Dad was always hitching up the horses to pull somebody out of a mud hole. His most regualr customer was Ed Collins, who drove the 'Breton Bus'. What a wonderful man he was! Our whole family has ridden that bus for many years, but never once while he was driving did we have to pay a fare. We never charged for pulling, so he never charged for riding. Daddy never charged anyone else that was ever stuck either. I remember once, it was in Sept. or Oct., and it had rained for about a week and it was really cold. Mom had made a huge pot of soup, probably of washtub proportions because you never knew who would happen by, and we were just sitting down to eat when in came Ed, whistling like all was well. The bus had broken down just out by our gate. Mom invited him to have a bowl or two, which he did. Before he and Daddy went to see what was wrong with the bus, Mom told him to tell the ladies to come in where it was warm. Maybe there weren't many, but it seemed like a dozen of them. Mom added more peas and carrots, salt and water and all the ladies had soup. Then the few men came in to eat, the bus got fixed, and away they all went. A couple of weeks later Mom got a lovely thank-you letter from Miss Chapman, the district nurse at Breton, with praises and 25¢ for Dolores, for being such a grown-up little girl and looking after their coats and showing them where the chemical closet was. Gosh that 25¢ seemed like a lot of money to spend as I wished.

School was a terrific place. We all attended Progress School. On nice days it was just a short jaunt, and on cold snowy days it seemed like a thousand miles away. Miss Kathleen Moore and Miss Effie Davidson were Olive's first teachers. I started with Miss Dittrich, whom we still see occasionally, and enjoy chatting with. Then we had Russell Petterson for 6 years. He grew up right in our district, went to school there, and to Normal School and came back and taught in the same school. This is not an easy thing to do, but we all liked him very much as he made learning fun. He played the accordion, so we could sing or dance as rewards for studying hard. He also got us all very interested in gymnastics. We had pitiful few books in our library, and little sports equipment, so he let us have raffles and dances to raise money for books and sports equipment. We had some really good Christmas concerts, and more often than not he would write the plays himself. When I finished grade 9 and went to Calmar to school, he went on to Warburg. After that, there were two pretty young girls, one of them later married Ernest Kvarnberg and settled down in the community and the other. Doris Campbell, married my cousin, and became a welcome member of the Ohrn clan. The school was closed after this and the students were bussed to Thorsby.

We had wonderful neighbors. I can't possibly mention them all by name, and they all helped to make up the fabric of our everyday lives. Mr. and Mrs. Andrews lived across the road from us, they had no children, so they always spoiled us a little bit. Olive and I would go over and stay with her all night whenever Mr. Andrews was away, just to keep her company. She always had candy on hand, and pop, which we never had at home. Mrs. Andrews introduced us to traditional Ukrainian food which we are still fond of.

The old swimming hole at Weed Creek was the meeting place for all the young people. You were part of the gang when you could walk there and back under your own steam. Most of us learned to swim by the age of 8 or 9. There was a nice shack there built of green poplar saplings by Donald and Ralph Ohrn, and George and Clarence Dorn. Any time we had a picnic, there was only one place to have it, and that was at Weed Creek. We had our end of the school year picnic there with homemade lemonade, icecream and hotdogs. A test of bravery was walking the top rail of the old iron bridge. Our eyes nearly popped out the first time that Gordon Branton stood on his head up there. When summer gave way to winter we skated on the road and hill. There was never enough traffic to worry about. We also skied every chance we got. Once while skating downhill we found some little bottles of pills. We took them home and Mom phoned the R.C.M.P. in Leduc. They turned out to be drugs stolen from the Thorsby Drug Store a couple of nights earlier. Now the old picnic sight is covered with tons

of earth, and so is the swimming hole - modern times have covered it all with a lovely hardtop road.

We also skated at the Happy Phillips. The Sturkos and Rausers would gather there too. "Happy" always helped his family make a rink and I think he had every bit as much fun as we kids did. Then we'd go in and gather around the organ and sing while we warmed up. Minnie would pop corn for all of us. I think if a tally were taken, Minnie would win the prize for having popped the most corn.

In the winter of '38-'39 we missed a bunch of school as we were quarantined for scarlet fever, Betty was sick for so long and got so frail. The doctor came many times, and finally Doctor Kidd lanced her neck glands and we could see the improvement in a couple of hours.

There were sad times too, that affected the whole district. There was a family named Kozniuk who lived just south of Uncle Herb. They had 2 girls and wanted a son. Mrs. Kozniuk had given birth to boys on two different occasions and called them both Edward, but both died as infants. The third Edward lived, but Mrs. Kozniuk died. Mom was there helping at the time. The family moved to Welland, Ont. in the '40's. Another time, Mrs. Jackowicki died, leaving a fair-sized family of young children. Daddy brought her body from Leduc on the sleigh for the funeral. It was bitterly cold weather.

Gordon and Ronald Branton both worked for us, in fact they were there so much, they were almost like brothers to us. Gordon picked a lot of roots on our place. When Daddy got his first tractor, a Massey Harris Pacemaker in 1938, Gordon drove it more than Daddy did. He just loved it. Both boys joined the army and were killed overseas, Gordon on June 4, 1944 and Ronald a month later. We all felt the loss terribly.

Daddy broke a lot of the land on the north quarter, as there was still a lot of bush on it when he bought it from Uncle Henry. Some he cleared by hand, and some he had cut by Ed Roth and his brush cutter.

Another time Betty was hiding from Bobby, and hid behind the oat box in the horse barn. She sat on what she thought was a cat. When she realized that the nice black kitty had 2 white stripes down its back she cleared out. Daddy took the gun and went out and shot it. It also shot Dad and he lost his dinner for his efforts.

In the early days we tried to go to Edmonton at least once a year. We kids would go without a lot of things just for the ride and to see the big stores, so Daddy would crank up the old '29 Chev and away we'd go. We also made a couple of yearly treks to Warburg to visit the Ohrn relatives. We sould go out the south town line and come back by Pokahasset and Telfordville (roads permitting) or vice versa so that we could see the changes from year to year. How we kids loved "Auntie Out West" (Mrs. Richard Ohrn) for she made the best scorpa (rusks) and they were in a flour sack on a nail behing the pantry door. In 1940 Daddy traded the old '29 Chev for a '39 Oldsmobile. All of us

kids learned to drive in that car as we had it until about 1951.

I really don't know how Mom would have managed without Olive. I don't think I'll ever forget how hard she worked, and all the heavy pails that she carried. We had pigs to feed and cows to milk. On cold days we sure hated to go out, but Mom would get us into a sing-song while we milked and it never seemed so bad then. I think the cows milked better too. Mom had a tremendous capacity for seeing the bright side of things, no matter what went wrong. We all shared her love of music. When we were small we'd sing and 'play' our pots, pans, combs, and spoons. We yearned for a piano or organ, but there was never enough money for that. Oh, how we envied anyone who was rich enough to own a piano. We loved acting too, and would put on our own performances at the drop of a hat.

Mom and Dad joined the Buford Vasa Lodge in December, 1944. Olive joined shortly after, and we all became members when we reached 16. This organization is North America wide, and its purpose is

to preserve Scandinavian culture.

Olive was the first to leave home, and before her marriage, worked at both Eatons and Woodwards in Edmonton. She is now Mrs. Davies of Fort Saskatchewan and has 3 children; Mrs. Janet Lawrence of Fort Simpson, N.W.T. (21), Howard James 17, and Susan Laverne 14.

I worked in Edmonton for 5 years before my marriage - at National Bakery for a short time, at Singer Sewing Machines and with A.G.T. I have 4 children; Ronald Hayden, 21, Kenneth Orren, 19, Phillip Helmer, 14, and Linnea Marie, 11.

Betty worked at Thomas' store in Calmar, Calmar Creamery and the Thorsby telephone office. She is Mrs. Hanson and lives north of Calmar in the old Magnus Pearson home. She has 1 boy, Harry Stanley Jr., 14.

Bobby lives on the home place and drives a school bus and works at Hoffman's Hardware in Thorsby. He has 2 children, William Robert (Bill), 17, and Lori Anne, 15.

Mom was quite sickly the last years of her life, and she had a few serious operations during the years. She passed away on September 7, 1972 after a long stay in the hospital. After that, Daddy managed alone, cooking his own meals, and doing his own cleaning until he suffered a stroke last spring. He passed away 2 weeks later on May 15, 1978. Neither lived long enough to see their first great-grandchild, Debra Laverne Lawrence. She is Olive's little granddaughter and was born Sept. 12, 1978.

JOHN AND JULIA PETTERSON

by John and Julia

The families of John and Julia Petterson were



Olaf Petterson family and home, about 1904. L. to R.: Jennie, John, Olaf and Alex.

among the early Scandinavian settlers of the west Calmar area who arrived by train at Leduc from North Dakota and Minnesota at the turn of the century. The Pete Westlund family of 2 boys and 3 girls headed west in 1898 to join Melins, Lundblads, Dahlquists, Blomquists, Dixons and others. The original log home of John and Julia still stands ½-mile north of the Community Cemetery. It was here their first child to be born in Alberta, Julia, arrived in December 1898. She and others of her family attended Rose Hill School.

The Ole Petterson family didn't arrive until June 1900. They left Walcott, North Dakota by freight car loaded with furniture, 3 horses, 3 cows, a plough, mower and wagon. At the Canadian border, Jennie (45), Alex (7), and John (5) had to move to a passenger coach, leaving Ole to travel in the stock car and care for the livestock on the 5-day journey.

The search for a homestead lasted several weeks for Ole, while the family first stayed in an abandoned homestead house at Conjuring Creek and later in a borrowed tent at Willow Creek. Finally the place was selected and after some neighbours helped erect a small log house and a barn, the family took up



Jennie (Mrs. Olaf) Petterson spinning yarn.



John Petterson Family.

residence. It became the family home until 1951.

The first winter came early, in August, and was a tough one for the new-comers. Money and food was almost non-existent. Fortunately, rabbits and partridges were plentiful so this became the staple food. Two young homesteaders, Sven and Pete Munson, from the adjoining quarter spent the winter with them and helped with the hunting. The cattle barely survived the winter because of the poor quality feed. In the spring, 2 horses died of swamp fever. However, gradually things improved as small clearings became fields and a garden. The remaining horse was replaced by 2 reliable oxen.

In 1902 Alex began school at Willow Creek and in 1904 John followed. In 1908 both boys transferred to the new log, Progress school. The first teachers were Miss Svenson and Miss Douglas. The school term was a full 10-month period. Land Tax of \$8.00 financed the school.

By 1904 fortune began to smile as the boys acquired traps and began selling weasel skins at 15-25¢. This cash supply improved the diet with sugar, first grade flour and other groceries.

By 1910, John's schooling was finished and a man's work began. Logs for a new frame house were cut and sawed. This house still stands. Alma, the oldest child who had stayed "back in the States" joined the family. Progress in farming was noted as threshing was done by machine, replacing the flail and winnowing.

In 1913, Ole died at age 77. Alex took over the farm, and Alma married the local school teacher, Emerson Coupland, a year later. John had a try at homesteading himself at Lindale and took part in the log river drive. In '16 and '17 he headed to the prairie at Dehlia to help with the farming at Couplands. In 1918, John spent a short time in the army. Later that year Alex was a victim of the 'flu. John took over the home place and in the fall of 1919 married Julia Westlund of Calmar. He also added to his land — a

quarter of C.P.R. property bought at \$12.00 per acre.

Their 2 sons Russell and Walter, born 1920 and '25 respectively, took their schooling at Progress, Thorsby and Calmar. Walter married Audrey Jackson of Leduc in 1948. They have lived in Edmonton, Leduc, on the farm, and now at Camrose.

Russell taught at Progress, Warburg, Calmar, and Ponoka. In 1951, he married Joyce Easton of Coronation, who was teaching at Warburg at the time. Both Russell and Joyce have continued to teach in Ponoka.

John and Julia left the farm in 1949 to locate in their present home in Edmonton. The homestead was sold to Bill Sendziak in 1951, his son Larry farms the place. The house stands abandoned.

JOHN AND ANNIE POWLIK

John Powlik and Annie Kuzmicha were married in 1898 in Lasky, Ukraine. John was a carpenter but was looking for a better future, even if it meant leaving his homeland.

In 1906 the Powliks left the Ukraine and headed for Alberta, Canada, which they had been told was a haven for homesteaders. John had no idea what he was taking his family to, but he did know that he wanted more freedom, and more land - his own land. The Thorsby district had cheap land and plenty of it.

John and Annie Powlik journeyed to Strathcona, Alberta with 4 children and all of their personal belongings packed tightly in large wooden boxes. They had little money but with wagon and horses they went out to their homestead in the Buford area. The way was not easy.

John set about to build his one-room house for his family and drilled his own well. His training as a carpenter came in handy, as he was able to furnish his home with home-made furniture. The house was heated by burning wood in the cook stove. Winter nights were long and very cold. The clothes were washed by hand and any mending or sewing that needed to be done was also done by hand. Daily



Old Powlik homeplace about 1935. Standing: Mike, Andrew, John, Hazel, John Powlik Sr. Annie and Kate. Front: unidentified.

chores consisted of cleaning the barn, cutting and hauling fire wood; feeding the chickens, pigs, horses and cows. Vegetables were grown in the large garden and most of the grain was used as feed for the animals.

John and Annie had 10 children in all; 4 boys and 6 girls. From eldest to youngest, the children were; Kate, Hazel, Mary, Andrew, John, Mike, William, Sophie, Millie, and Francis. The children attended Progress school which was a healthy three-mile walk one way each school day. One of the teachers still remembered is Miss Saunders. A lot of baseball was played at recess. The worst memory of school was the fact that the school building was not heated properly and was very cold in the winter.

Some of the family activities included playing baseball, attending church picnics, listening to John (violin) and Mike (drums) playing their instruments, and visiting with neighbors Muchas and Stankos as

well as friends like the Popiks.

Only Andrew's 2 sons, Eugene and Ted and their families presently reside in the Thorsby district. John Robert Powlik's 2 sons, Roger and Gerald, along with Eugene and Ted, are the only grandsons of John and Annie Powlik to carry on the Powlik name.

Surviving children of John and Annie Powlik include; Hazel (Welland, Ont.), Mary (Calmar, Alta.),

and Sophie and Francis (both in Edmonton)

JOHN AND EMMA PROVENCE

John Provence and his wife, the former Emma Warren, were both born and grew up in Missouri. The young couple moved from there to the eastern part of Washington state and lived in several different localities for many years.

They had 8 children - Oliver, Eunice, Luella, Leslie (Slim), Howard, Hattie, Lily, and Lenny. The latter 3

passed away while very young.

In 1911 they filed claim on a homestead in Montana near the small town of Galata. This was dry-land farming and crops were very uncertain. One year the grass and water dried up so they had to move their horses and cattle to where feed was available,

returning in the spring.

In the spring of 1925, they moved to Canada. They drove their horses and cattle and hauled their belongings to the line at Sweet Grass, Montana. They shipped these by rail from there to Leduc. Slim drove the family in a Model T Ford. They settled on the S½ 25-49-1-W5. Like all new settlers who came to Canada there was the building of a home, clearing of land, and endless hours of hard work making a living.

At that time, Calmar was the nearest town - about 9 miles away. They hauled their grain to Leduc which was the nearest railroad and about 20 miles away. At harvest time they stored the grain in granaries and hauled it to Leduc in the winter time, often in temperatures far below zero. Then the branch of the railroad came through and Thorsby was born about 3½ miles away from their farm.

Their youngest son Howard was killed in a car accident in Montana on August 2, 1938. He had been an ardent horseman and took great pride in his brood mares and his stallion named "Bud" that he travelled with throughout the country.

John Provence made his home here until he passed away October 4, 1936 at the age of 75. In 1951 his widow returned to Kalispell, Montana to make her home with her daughter Lou. She passed away December 26, 1955 at the age of 85. Their oldest son Oliver passed away November 24, 1971. Three of their children are living - Eunice Dorn who lives near Thorsby, Luella Swanberg and "Slim" Provence who both reside in Sandpoint, Idaho.

THE FRED PYRCZ FAMILY

by Kay Pyrcz

The second son of Mary and Mike Pyrcz was born in February of 1916, in a two-room cabin near Thorsby. They decided to name him Fred, as this was a typical Ukrainian name. During the summer, his parents drove to Sprucedale with horses and wagon to have him baptized, for at that time, that was the closest church and it was over 15 miles away.

At 4 years of age, he was left fatherless. Although he didn't fully realize the situation, it made living even harder. They depended on neighbors and relatives to bring them wild meat, and the odd bit of groceries from Leduc. Everyone was very kind and thoughtful, even though they lived several miles away from each other and had to travel through bush roads.

At 7 years of age he started grade 1 at Progress School, which was 3 ½ miles across country. Most children went barefooted in summer, and when it had snowed one fall day, he had to run most of the way home to keep his feet from freezing. Shoes were bought only for winter wear, and believe me, they were never outgrown.

Mrs. Hale was one of Fred's teachers and according to her, she never did find the strap that Fred

hid in one of the gopher holes.

When he had a step-father, discipline was much stricter, and education was secondary to parents. Fred missed a lot of school, and later quit, to help on the farm.

Mosquitoes hung around in clouds and would have eaten anything alive if it hadn't been for smoke pots.

With a yearning to have a few cents for himself, Fred went to work for different farmers in the neighborhood clearing land, and milking cows. He received 75¢ for a ten-hour day, and then had to walk home at night. Although the work was hard, the money looked very good then.

During the Second World War, he enlisted in the

Armed Forces as a gunner in the artillery. After getting his training in Canada, he went overseas and saw action in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. In 1945, when the war ended, Fred was thankful he had no disabilities, and in March, 1946 returned to his home town of Thorsby to start a new life for himself.

A few years younger than Fred, I was a girl in my late teens then. I was born and raised in the Wilton Park district, being the third daughter of John and Joyce Kuta. I was a sickly kid, fifth in line in a family of 9. To raise a family our size in a two-room log house, required good nerves and a cool head.

We slept in the attic, that had no windows, and you couldn't stand up straight there. Snow would blow in around the stove-pipe onto our beds in winter but no one worried about it. In the warmer weather we

moved into a granary to sleep.

Before I started school, I vividly remember the preacher coming to dinner. Helen, my younger sister and I sat hiding behind the kitchen stove until he left. We had never seen anyone dressed like him before. A lot of thoughts went through our minds.

Most of my first 6 years were spent at home with Mom and the other kids. How she ever put up with us in such small surroundings and being underfoot all the time, I'll never know. Mother suffered from rheumatism, and at times was unable to get around, but she never complained. She told me I could start school when my head measured up to the north window. Well I didn't quite reach it at 6, but off to school I went. Luckily, I had learned the English language from my older sisters and brothers.

We were janitors in the Wilton Park school most of my school days, for \$8.00 and then \$12.00 a month. The daily chores consisted of building a fire, carrying out the ashes, bringing in water, coal and wood, and dusting the desks. After school the floor had to be swept and in order to do this, it required moving about 30 desks first to one side and then back. Twice a year the floor and windows were washed. We had two schools to look after. I really missed walking to and from school with my classmates as we were the first kids in school, and the last to leave at night. Dad used the cheque for whatever was needed most at that time, and believe me, we needed a lot.

One incident I'll never forget was when Elsie started school. After a few days she decided school was for the birds, and made a big fuss only when she was about half way to school. Helen and I tried our darnedest to get her to school, and of course the more we tugged, the louder she cried. Our neighbour Mrs. Bogus met us at her gate with a switch in her hand. She thought we were beating up the little angel. We had to do some fast talking to get out of that predicament. Alex and Vivian started school after I left, and I gathered someone else had the same problems.

In winter we drove to school with a horse-drawn caboose. It was a sad day one morning when Nick went to harness "Queenie", and she was dead in her stall. We walked the 1 ½ miles that day for it was too late to



Terry Pyrcz's Graduation, June 1976.

fetch another horse from the straw pile.

During the summer holidays Helen and I took turns pasturing cows on the road allowance. This was a job I never looked forward to.

Our house was quarantined for 30 days when first Helen, and then I came down with scarlet fever. The school was also closed, as many other children in the community were sick. I was 13 then and a very sick girl. The only after affect I had was having to wear glasses a year later.

I finished grade 10, and then went to work at Nisku, doing general housework for Mrs. Mike Forster. This was very good experience and above all, her good words of wisdom which were "When you do any work, do it good the first time, then you won't have to do it again", will never be forgotten. For this I have received many compliments in my doings throughout the years. Their farm was located where part of the International Airport now stands. After 10 months of working, I took a few days holiday to welcome my oldest brother Bill home, who was discharged from the army. I never went back to my job, as Mother required my help at home. Mary and Eva were now married with Mary leaving home after her husband was discharged from the army. Fred Pyrcz came home a month later than Bill did. I had known him casually before he left for Europe, but he still thinks I was playing in the sand then.

After a 7 month courtship Fred and I were married in November, 1946. Through the V.L.A. we bought a farm N.W. of Thorsby from Sid Rixson, with our wedding money as a downpayment on it. Next April we moved to a new life along the Strawberry creek. Our belongings were few - a table and chairs, bed,



Marvin and Angela Pyrcz, ages 22 and 5 yrs.

dishes, a tub and washboard. The wood stove was bought from Rixson's and apple boxes were my cupboard and wash stand. I used my dish towels for curtains. We had one Holstein cow that Fred bought at an auction sale, and I believe she was as lonely as I was. I must have cried the creek full of tears the first year. Later on my mom gave me 7 laying hens. I saw my parents very rarely, as we had no means of transportation. We often walked across the creek to Mike Stefanyshyn's and rode with them into town. They owned a car as they had been established there for quite a few years before us. We put our crop in with horses that belonged to Steve (Fred's brother) and these were taken back and forth as needed.

Our major problem on the farm was water, with the well being 318 feet deep. At times, instead of water, we got a jellied substance out of it. We had only 90 acres under cultivation, the rest being in creek. We realized after we had accumulated more cattle, that this was not enough land for pasture and hay.



Terry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Long and Dale, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pyrcz, wedding picture.

I did learn to navigate the creek banks with a bit of advice from our neighbor. She said "Hang onto the cow's tail and she'll pull you up". Although "Bossy" rested a lot, it was a great help for me to climb up.

It was when we started raising turkeys and pigs on a larger scale, that Fred had to go to work to buy grain. He worked for a construction company, and I labored on the farm.

We now had 3 children, Loretta, Dale and Marvin.

In 1956, we had a complete crop failure, as it rained nearly everyday during the summer. We lost a lot of turkeys due to the wet weather, and I was just sick of the whole thing.

In November, we bid our neighbors farewell, and moved to a rented house in Thorsby. Fred got a job on a drilling rig, and it was then that we decided to rent our farm out. There just had to be an easier way to make a living. I didn't have to worry anymore about driving the kids to the school bus.

Terry was born next June, 1957, and although I was in town, I still had no running water. I washed clothes twice a week and in winter brought them in frozen to hang up on a line strung across my living room.

Our neighbors were slowly moving into town too. The Joe Hemela's bought a house in Thorsby and were next to move in. Fred Klatt's built their own home in town, and George Supryk also bought a house and moved in much later. They were all retired.

Fred now had decided to go into the trucking business which he liked most of all. This work took him into different parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and the North West Territories, hauling water to a drilling rig. He was away from home a lot, so when Terry started school, I went to work at the local grocery store for Tony and Pat Lefsrud. My work was very new to me, but I enjoyed it very much, and being busy kept me from being lonely.

Our oldest daughter Loretta passed away in Dec. 1966, when she was 18 years old. Angela was born on May 11, 1969(Mother's Day) making it the happiest day in our house. She is now 9 years old. Dale is married to Terry Long and lives and teaches in New Sarepta. They have a daughter, Dana, who is 3. Marvin is unmarried, lives in Edmonton and operates his own gravel truck. Terry lives at home and is employed by the N.A.D.P. Fred works for SarCee Drilling, but employs a driver for his water truck. He relieves his driver for a week - every 3 weeks, and this helps him keep in touch with the happenings on the rig and his fellow workers.

I worked part-time at the Lucky Dollar Store until it closed. Then I worked across the street at the U-Save Foodliner.

For us, the grass was greener on the other side of the fence, but the important thing now is to maintain our health, and this is all the wealth we need.

MICHAEL PYRCH — FRED ADAMIC FAMILIES

by Steve Pyrch

Michael Pyrch was born in the Ukraine in 1886 and came to Canada in 1906 at the age of 20. He came by train from Halifax to Edmonton. He couldn't speak a word of English so he had a hard time finding a job, until he met some Ukrainian people that could speak some English. They found a job for him in a coal mine.

In 1912, he met and married Mary Popik. She came to Canada in 1904, with her parents from Poland at the age of 7. After my parents' marriage they lived in Edmonton for about a year. When they had saved some money they decided to go farming. They settled on the NW 14-49-28-W4 which was a homestead owned by my mother's father, Mike Popik. My parents lived there with my grandparents for about 6 years in a two-room log house with a sod roof.

During the winter my dad went to work to make some money so that he could buy a team of horses, a buggy, a few cows and other things that were needed to start farming. My mother recalled one incident that happened. One evening, while they sat around talking, they heard a noise outside, so my dad went out to investigate. There, on top of the sod roof, was a big black bear trying to tear the roof down. They banged

on pots and pans to scare him away.

They didn't have much for furniture from the start. Apple boxes were used for chairs and a wash stand, and they slept on a bed with a straw mattress until they

could afford to buy a proper one.

The farm was mostly bush, but my dad cleared some land by hand - enough to plant some oats and a garden. The oats froze the first year, so he had to make green feed out of it for the few stock they had. The garden wasn't very good as it was a very wet year. The mosquitoes were so bad all summer that they had to use a smoke pot in the house at all times.

I was born on Dec. 9, 1914, and my brother Fred was born in Feb. 1916. My grandmother passed away in 1916 and my grandfather died in the late 1920's.

In 1918, my dad bought the SE 13-49-28-W4 from the C.P.R. at \$11.00 an acre. It took a good many years to pay for that land. In the early spring of 1919, he started to build our new home, and in the fall of that year he was accidentally shot while carrying a loaded shot gun. I was 5 years old at the time so don't remember too much about my dad except what my mother told me. With the help of neighbors and my uncles Dan, John and Fred Popik, they finished building the house by winter time so that we could move in.

About a year later my mother married Fred Adamic, a widower with 5 children. His oldest daughter Anne was married at the time to Peter Diachak, a railroad worker, and they lived in Edmonton. The other 4 children, Yuly, John, Sophie and Metro lived with us on the farm as they were quite young then. Into this second union another daughter, Leona, was born in May 1928, so there were "his, hers and our" children in this family. We all grew up as one family and got along very well. We went through a lot of hardships, worked hard, and did without a lot of things, especially in the hungry thirties. We went bare-foot all summer and wore patches on our clothes but things got better as time went on. My stepfather and we boys built a log barn and a chicken coop so that we could keep more cows and chickens.

All us kids attended an old log house school. Progress School was situated on a fraction north of the railroad track a mile east of Thorsby. One of my teachers, Mrs. Beulah Hale, still lives on the farm on the outskirts of Thorsby. Later, that old log school was moved to Thorsby and used for a blacksmith shop. A new one was built about a mile to the north east on the farm which is now owned by Peter Techer. In 1958, this school was closed down and the children were bused to Thorsby. I had all my education in the old log school house. I then went to work, as money was scarce at home. I helped with spring work for neighbors for \$1.00 a day and went out working again

during harvesting.

About 1928, my stepbrother John left home to find a job and hasn't been heard from since. Yuly died in 1933 at the age of 23. Sophie married Nick Sturko. She passed away in 1956. Anne passed away in 1966.



Eva Pyrch holding baby son David. Steve, his mother Mrs. Fred Adamic and step-father Fred Adamic. 1944.

Metro married Ruby Krieger and lives in Edmonton. Leona married Mike Czuroski and lives north of Devon.

I bought my first car, a 1929 Chev, in 1936, for \$300. My brother and I did a lot of tube and tire patching in the years to come as we couldn't afford new ones. In 1940, I traded my car for a 1937 Chev truck as it was more economical on the farm. In 1941 we built our new home in which my wife and I still live. In 1942, I married Eva Kuta of Calmar (the Wilton Park district). In the fall of the same year my brother Fred was called into the army and a few months later joined the army to go fighting overseas. I stayed home to help my parents on the farm as they were getting up in age by then.

In 1944, our first son David was born on the 8th of June. In 1946, I took over the family farm and my parents retired but lived with us. Our daughter Janice was born on May 24th, 1948. In 1943, I bought our first brand new Ferguson tractor (with steel wheels) for \$1400.00 and a two-bottom plow for \$200.00 It seemed like a lot of money at the time. We raised a lot of turkeys to pay for it. Market hogs that year and for a few years after were only \$15.00 a head. It was nice not to have to harness horses anymore. My wife and I worked very hard, raised hogs, turkeys, chickens and milked 14 cows by hand in order to buy what was necessary for farming. In November of '53 we bought our first new car. We rented more land and worked so much harder. In December of the same year, my stepfather passed away at the age of 72. He had been ill



Steve Pyrch feeding turkeys in 1944.

for a few years prior to his death. My mother passed

away in March of '73 at the age of 78.

Our youngest son Randy was born in June, 1957. The next fall we bought our first combine. My wife was very happy that she didn't have to help stook and run the binder anymore, although she had to help haul grain at harvest time. In 1960, I bought 80 acres of land next to mine - S.W. 13-49-28-W4, from Mrs. Christine Adamic and my neighbor Bill Babiak bought the other 80 acres. We each paid \$3200.00 for it. Seems like very little compared to what land is selling for now, but at the time it was a lot.

Our children are all married now. David married Heather Wright and they live in Drayton Valley. He works for an oil company. They have 4 children; Kevin, Bradley, Dana and Deisirie. Janice married Richard Carstairs and they live in Warburg. He operates a garage and filling station. They have 3 children; Trevor, Ryan and Leslee. Randy married Vicki Hibbert this year (1978) and they live in Edmonton. My wife and I still live on the farm and put the crop in and raise a few hogs for something to do.

AUGUST RUFF FAMILY

by Bertie Ruff as told to her by the Ruff children

Gottfried Ruff, of German nationality, along with his wife Theresa and their six children (including a son August who later farmed in the Thorsby district) emigrated from Bessarabia, Russia in Nov. 1900. They settled in Manitoba for a short while but finding the winters too cold, they moved to Washington State, U.S.A. about 100 miles west of Spokane where he bought a farm.

In 1909, the Milwaukee Railroad built its lines through the area. A townsite was placed on Gottfried's land on July 20, 1910 and was named Ruff. At its peak it had the Ruff State Bank, drug store, two general stores (1 of them containing the post office), 2 hotels, pool halls, lumber yard, elementary and high school, 4



The station at Ruff, Washington, named for August Ruff's father.

churches (German Congregational, Evangelical, Mennonite and Seventh Day Adventist), railroad depot, grain elevators, 2 garages, and a number of lovely homes. The town which is situated 35 miles south of Maryln flourished until the Second World War when a big air base was set up in the area of Moses Lake, just a few miles away. At that time some of the business places and many homes were moved there, others were torn down. The station, elevators, 1 store and about 5 families remain. The deserted shacks and first house of Gottfried;s still remain on the land he purchased though the land has passed into other hands.

He passed away in 1917. His wife lived until 1935. All of the children with the exception of Emma in Portland, Oregon and Martin in Fairfield, Washington (a nephew they adopted after coming to the States) have passed away.

August Ruff married Rosa Knoblick, whose parents emigrated from Russia around the same time,

in 1907.

They farmed near Oddessa where 3 of their 8 children were born (Reinhold, Sam and Stanley). Land was high priced in the States and August decided to move to Canada after hearing about the homesteads and great opportunities. He took up homesteading 46 miles northeast of Medicine Hat. August built their 3-room house of sod. Rosa, always an immaculate housekeeper, plastered the inside of the house with her special formula of mud and straw and kept it whitewashed. The floor was boards which she kept scrubbed almost as white as the walls. While living there 4 more children were born, Willie, Jack, Bertha and Norman. Rosa was kept busy gardening, doing chores, spinning and knitting (all socks, mitts and some sweaters), picking rocks, stooking, stacking hay, and raising chickens. No one was a better cook and everything was homemade (noodles, dumplings, perogies, strudle, couga, pancakes, bread, cinnamon buns, and doughnuts just to name a few of the different things she made to vary their diet). In the fall big jars of sauerkraut as well as dill pickles were made. At butchering time she helped make different kinds of sausages and cured hams and bacon. She also made all of her own soap. At first the washing was done on a scrub board, later a hand washing machine was purchased which was run mostly by child power.

August worked hard. First rocks had to be picked, then the sod broken and seeding done. He was fortunate because he brought horses from the States with him. Most farmers used oxen. Harvest time was hard. Grain was cut with a binder, then stooked. A few years later they used headers, then the grain was stacked loose and threshed. The threshing machine had a stationary engine and no blower, thus straw had to be continually forked up and hauled away. Later, when more land was seeded, modern threshing machines became available. Then there would be a crew of 10 or 12 men. The farmers' wives had the responsibility of cooking for them. Three big meals,

plus coffee in mid morning and afternoon, had to be prepared. The women tried to outdo each other with their cooking skills. Ruffs place was usually voted as having the best meals.

August had to either haul his grain to Medicine Hat or Maple Creek, both about 46 miles away. He found that Maple Creek made the best flour so that is where he hauled his grain. A year's supply of flour would be bought which didn't leave much for clothes, food or machinery. He also did the freighting for the little store about 3 miles away. Many times blizzards were so bad, coming or going to Medicine Hat, that he couldn't see where to go so he would blanket the horses and walk them around the sleigh to keep from freezing until the storm let up. Once one horse was so badly chilled that it died when he got home and the other one lost all its hoofs because of frostbite.

In 1920 the railroad came through and the town of Shuler was built around the store. August helped with much of the construction work and did the freighting for the town.

Every fall he drove to the South Saskatchewan River about 40 miles away to dig and haul home their year's supply of coal. Their only other fuel was cow chips which had to be turned over after they dried on top so the under side could dry. Almost as soon as the children could walk they helped with this job. Then the cow chips were placed in a pile next to the barn. As soon as the boys were old enough they trapped, snared and drowned gophers for which the government gave them a cent a tail.

The school was built on their farm when Sam and Reinhold were about 8 and 9 years old. About 70 children attended this school which had only 1 teacher. None of the children were able to speak English. The boys like to tell stories about their mischievousness in school. Sam's favorite story is about a lady teacher who always opened a window near where he sat in school. When he said he was cold, she'd always say, "A little fresh air won't do you any harm." It was his job to drive her to the store. One Saturday he took the big, slow work team instead of the faster driving horses. Coming home it was getting dark and very cold. Sam got out and walked to keep warm. Finally the teacher asked him if he couldn't drive a bit faster because she was getting very cold. He just said, "A little fresh air won't do you any harm." Needless to say, after that the window was closed when she was asked.

Entertainment was simple. Families visited each other always staying for a meal, or if it was evening an ample lunch with coffee was served. The men played horseshoes or swapped tall stories. The women would spin or knit while they exchanged their family's experiences and gossip. Sometimes they sang. The youngsters played games. The young people raced their horses and young couples went sleigh or buggy riding. They played baseball and had barn dances.

There were always 2 days of Christmas. On the eve of the 24th Santa Claus always came in person to the

Ruff home with treats and a present. Later they learned it was their mother's brother, Martin. The 25th of Dec. the Ruffs went to church. Some neighbors and relations would always join them at home after church when they would have a goose dinner and many kinds of sausages and dumplings and lots of special German baking. Then they sang Christmas Carols and hymns. The second day they visited other homes where homemade wine was served along with lots of food. The children played games and their elders sang until long past midnight.

A minister came out from Medicine Hat to hold services every Sunday in the school. Ruffs very seldom missed the service.

Things went fairly good for them until 1922 when the drought started. With no crops and a big family something had to be done. August heard about C.P.R. land west of Leduc being sold quite cheaply. He came up to investigate and bought a ½ section of land a mile east of Thorsby elevators (now owned by Mrs. Willie Ruff and her sons).

In July 1924 August set out with Sam and Reinhold, their horses and some machinery. He shared Andrew Knopp's and John Bauman's covered wagons as they made the trip together. When the weather was nice they slept under the stars on straw mattresses. When it rained they had to crowd into one of the covered wagons. The Knopps had about 7 children, the Baumans had 5. This would make from 8 to 10 sleeping in 1 wagon. They rested at Empress for 3 days and crossed the river there on the ferry. They could not take the horses on the ferry so had to drive them across. The current was so strong it carried them (16 in all) down river about ½ mile where they were found and herded back to the wagons. The trip was slow and tedious. Knopps and Baumans had cows so they could only go very slowly. Sometimes they would have to rest for a day or two or would be held up on account of rain. Farmers along the road were kind and gave them eggs, butter and flour. There were cook stoves in the wagons and the women baked and cooked. When they reached Leduc all were played out, including the stock. They got permission from the Leduc mayor to rest within the town limits. They stayed 3 days on the ground where Willow Brook is now situated. They arrived at Charles Snider's in the Fruitland district 32 days after leaving Schuler, August and Reinhold went to work while Sam stayed at the Snider's and took care of the stock.

In late fall August rented a farm with buildings on it from a Mr. Bittner. Rosa and the other 5 children came. The government paid for moving the rest of their belongings by rail (chickens, cows, machinery and household effects). The children attended the Fruitland School where their teacher's name was Mrs. King.

In February another son, David was born, Rosa never had a doctor attend any of the births.

They lived in the Fruitland district for 2 years. During this time August cleared some land on his farm



Mrs. August Ruff, (Rosa).

and built a slab house. They moved there in the spring. The house leaked so many a morning their beds were soaked and a couple of inches of water lay on the floor. Before winter set in he got enough lumber from Archie William's mill at Sunnybrook to build a house 18 by 24 feet - one room downstairs and one up which could be reached by climbing a ladder up the wall. The house was very cold being just rough lumber and paper with a rough lumber floor. At least it was dry. The roof was 2-ply rough lumber with paper in between. It's not known if Archie gave August the lumber 'on time' or if he worked for it. August had no money as first his crop froze and then rotted due to the heavy rains and early snow. They were thankful that wood was plentiful and coal was dug out of the creek half a mile away.

Their first well was dug by hand - 22 feet deep. Water was pulled up with a pulley and rope - only enough to supply the house - so livestock had to be watered at the creek. In 2 years a neighbor witched a well. They dug on that spot and got all the water they needed at 13 feet. It was also pulled up by hand. Many years later a pump was put in. The Ruffs pioneered here about the same as in Medicine Hat. Instead of picking rocks it was clearing the brush before breaking land. As the boys got bigger they helped their dad with the clearing and sometimes worked out turning their wages over to him to help with expenses. The grain had to be hauled to Leduc and the year's supply of flour brought home. This would take 2 or 3 days as roads were very bad. There was a post office on



August Ruff family, 1978, in Sam's home. Seated Dave and Bertha, standing Norman, Jack, Sam, Reinhold, at rear Stanley.

Madiuk's farm and the nearest store was at Weed Creek.

The school the children went to was Progress where Mrs. Hale was their teacher and friend. To this day the children have very fond memories of her both as a teacher and helpful neighbor. They attended the Lutheran church near Dniester and the children later went to school in Thorsby. Recreation was about the same here as in Medicine Hat. The young people had a lot of house parties and ball games. Rosa seldom went anywhere. Taking care of her family was her whole life. She had a serious illness in 1926 or '27 and was hospitalized in Edmonton for a number of months. Sometimes August walked to Edmonton to visit her.

In 1929 the railroad came through and the town of Thorsby sprang into existence. August and the boys helped with many of the new basements and buildings.



Elsie and Reinhold Ruff Family. Back Row: James, Paulette, Sylvia, and Judy. Seated: Reinhold and Elsie Ruff.

About 1939 they built a larger house which Jean Ruff (Willie's wife) still lives in and her boys farm the place.

In 1950 at the age of 65 August took seriously ill. He had not been well for a few years. He spent a short while in an Edmonton hospital then returned home. He was home only a few days when he passed away. Mrs. Ruff with her son, Willie, continued to farm the place for a number of years. Her last years were spent at Rose Haven in Camrose. She passed away at the age of 86. Both August and Rosa are buried in the Thorsby Cemetery.

Reinhold married Elsie Harrish and had 3 girls and 1 boy. Elsie passed away in Jan. 1978. Reinhold is retired and lives in his home at Buford. Sam married Bertie Barager and had 2 sons and a daughter. They are retired and live in Leduc. Stanley married Hilda Massner who passed away in Dec. 1977. Stanley is retired and lives in Cloverleaf Manor in Warburg. Willie married Jean Forbes and had 2 boys. He passed away in 1972.

Jack married Doris Forbes and had 2 boys and a girl. They live on their farm east and a little north of Thorsby. Bertha married Gordon Burgess, had 2 boys and a girl. Gordon passed away in June 1976. Bertha lives with her daughter and son-in-law on an acreage in

Sherwood Park. She works in the University Hospital. Norman married Agnes Pletnik. They had a girl and a boy. Agnes passed away in the fall of 1975. Norman lives in Thorsby and is a plasterer by trade. Dave married Alma Rinas and they have 4 girls. Dave and Alma live in Thorsby and he works for the Department of Highways.

HISTORYOF ALEC AND THEODORA RYBIE FAMILY

by Daughter Stella Kozial

Alec Rybie was born on Feb. 12, 1888 in Tuchla, Yaroslaw in Austria (now Poland).

In 1911 and 1912 he served in the Army there.

In 1913 he came to Canada to look for a future. He came to Edmonton and worked in a coal mine and on a railroad in Strathcona, now known as South Edmonton.

In 1920 Alec went back to Poland and married Theodora Konstantynowicz, and in April, 1921 they both came to Edmonton. That same year they bought a quarter section of C.P.R. land recommended to them by Alex Mucha, an earlier settler. The land was located 3 miles east of Thorsby. They brushed some land by hand and seeded about an acre of wheat and an acre of oats. They had to clear some bush in order to build a house. The first house was sort of a hut with no windows and was built from the logs they cut. The early settlers gave them one old cow and one old horse. The horse came in very handy to skid logs for buildings and firewood.

That same year they bought some lumber and built a two-room house with only one board thickness all around and no insulation. Theodora remembered the house being very cold. They also built a barn from the logs they cut and covered the barn with straw brought from the neighbor as it had no roof. A coal and wood stove and a coal and wood heater were the only sources of heat used for the house. They dug their first well by hand and drew the water up with a bucket. Washing clothes was done by hand on a washboard. Sewing was also done by hand. The closest store was the Buford Store. Hay was cut with a scythe. Their first crop was cut with a sickle. In later years, if they had any excess grain, Alec would haul it to Leduc by wagon and horses. Sometimes they would sell the grain or exchange it for flour. It took him a whole day to make the round trip.

The summers were quite warm and some were very dry. Theodora remembered fires burning around Thorsby and east of there. The people who lived there had to fight the fires and buckets were used to carry water.

Mrs. Rybie recalled the memories of World War I in her homeland, weren't very pleasant. The people, including her, had to leave their homes and stay in the



Alec and Theodora Rybie with Pete, John, Stella and Mary. Mrs. Rybies, sister Mrs. John (Annie) Tansowny with children Fred, Walter, Hazel, in 1929 on Rybie farm.

bush for 3 weeks. They lived on bread and tea which they begged from the Russian soldiers. When the fighting was over they returned to their homes - what was left of them.

Alec and Theodora were blessed with a family of four. Mary of Leduc has a family of 3 boys and 1 girl. Stella of Calmar has a family of four, 2 girls and 2 boys. John of Edmonton has 5 children, 1 boy and 4 girls. Peter of Thorsby has a family of 4 girls. The Rybie children all attended Progress School. We walked to school 1 ½ miles most of the time. Sometimes in winter we'd get a ride with a sled, but when snow drifts were even with the fence posts or higher at times, we would walk on top of the drifts. Visiting on Sundays was mostly done by walking. I remember walking about 10 miles there and back home.

In 1956 Alec Rybie passed away Theodora sold the farm in 1963 and moved to Thorsby where she lived until her death.

Albert Kozial and I were married in 1944. We live on the Kozial home place 5-50-27-W4. We are blessed with 4 children, 2 girls and 2 boys - Dianne, Lorraine, Ronald and Dennis.

Albert's father and mother, Luke and Mary Koziol came from Poland in 1910. They came here like many others trying to better themselves for the future. Luke Koziol worked on the railroad around Edmonton for some time.

The family first settled in the Rabbit Hill district where they farmed. From here they moved to Glidehurst district and farmed there for a few years. They sold the land there to a Mr. Grobski in 1920 and moved west of Calmar. They bought the ½ section from a Mr. Hopen.

They raised a family of 7 children and 2 died in infancy. John, Kate, Joe, Victoria, Frank and Albert helped on their parent's farm for years.

Frank remembers the hay mattresses he slept on for years - which got new hay every year.

They built a log house at Glidehurst and when they moved to the Calmar district, they took the house apart and brought it to the present farm. Later they



Albert and Stella Koziol family: Dianne, Lorraine, Ronald, and Dennis.

built onto the house. The only old building left on the present location is an old tool shed which the previous owner used for sawing logs and grinding chop.

When the family moved here they used to get up at 6 o'clock in the morning on Sundays in order to be in time for eleven o'clock mass at the Nisku church.

The Koziol family attended Wilton Park School. They had to walk about 2 miles through rain or snow.

The family built the first hot steam bath, an early version of today's sauna, from logs in the district. Mr. Anton Mankow helped them. The fire box was built from stones which they picked off the field. A fire was made in the fire box and when the stones would get red hot, the ashes were removed. Then they would pour cold water on the stones and get hot steam. The steam was regulated by the amount of water poured on the rocks. They had different levels where they sat. The higher up, the hotter the steam. The family even had hot steam baths on cold winter nights. Even some neighbors shared the steam bath.

Luke Koziol passed away on November 11, 1944 and his wife Mary in October, 1950. Their son Joe, passed away in June 1974 and John Koziol in June, 1976.

Theodora Rybie passed away on November 19, 1978.



L. to R.: Peter Rybie, Stella Kozial (Mother) Theodora, Mary Babiak, John Rybie.

Luke Koziol married Mary Pasula (deceased 1944) (deceased 1950)

Children - John, Kate, Joe, Victoria, Frank, Albert.

William Konstantynowicz and Katherine

Child - Theodora

Theodora Konstantynowicz married Alec Rybie (1888-1956)

STRAUTMAN STORY

submitted by Genevieve Dahlbeck

Henry Strautman was born in Latvia and came to the United States when he was 18, working at

numerous jobs.

During the later part of W.W. I, he joined the army. While in training, he and Signe Vollen of Climax, Minnesota were married in April, 1918, at Little Rock, Arkansas. She returned to her career as a nurse at the Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis. Henry was sent overseas.

On his return from overseas, they moved to Wenatchee, Washington, where Henry worked in an orchard. Their daughter, Genevieve Caroline, was

born in 1920.

In 1922, they moved to North Dakota to farm, but Henry had read about the great land opportunities in Canada, and after coming to look the place over in the fall of 1924, he apparently liked what he saw. In March of 1925, he and Norman McLarty arrived in Leduc. Henry had brought his machinery, 4 horses, a 1924 Model-T Ford and household articles. They both applied for C.P.R. quarters in the Strawberry area, but Henry's quarter was mostly under water, so he decided to get N.W. 25-1-49-W4, northeast of Thorsby.

This was a raw quarter and to get in with any vehicle, a road had to be cut out. The end of April, he built a 1-room shack for his wife and daughter, who had remained in Minnesota until then. Two cows were bought to be sure of a supply of milk and they proved to be a real problem. As few quarters were fenced, the cows would wander to the best pasture, along with other cattle. Finding them often took one or more

days of walking in bush and swamp land.

School too, proved to be a real chore, as one mile of the way was a trail through bush, and many times a tree would have fallen across the trail, leaving no choice but to cut it in pieces and get it off the trail. Henry and his neighbor took turns taking children to Progress School.

In 1927, Arne Edward was born.

We never seemed to lack entertainment during our growing-up years. During the winter there were house parties, when adults and children would get together for games and dancing. The Weed Creek was a great meeting place for sleigh rides down the main road with a ride up again with a kind teamster once in awhile. The ice was cleared for skating as well. In the summer this was the swimming hole and picnic spot for everyone around.

The Christmas Concerts were a real social function, as well as entertainment, where everyone went to those close by. The last day of school meant a picnic and ball game between Fruitland and Strawberry, that brought everyone out.

Henry continued to farm until his death at 67 in 1954. Signe stayed on the farm until 1957, when she moved to Thorsby. She lived there until her death in 1971.

Genevieve married Algot Dahlbeck in 1947 and has lived in the Glen Park district since.

Arne married Mildred Modin in 1950 and they live in Leduc.

THE FRED AND NORA STURKO STORY

as told by Nora

Fred, son of Metro and Fanny Sturko was born in the Glidehurst area on August 27, 1899.

Nora, daughter of Clem and Alexandra Sucloy, was born (one of a set of twins) in Loyalist, Alberta on September 16, 1911.

Fred and Nora met at Ignat and Katie Harrish's wedding. After a short courtship, they were married at a Ukrainian Catholic Church in Edmonton on July 26, 1927. Their wedding celebration lasted two days and the dance was held in a granary.

The following March, Fred and his brother Nick cleared a piece of land near a creek at N.E. 25-48-28-W5. It was on this location that they built a four room house with the unusual feature of a woodbox built into the pantry wall. It was also at that time that a log barn was erected on the farm site.

The Sturkos had a ten foot well dug down the hill near the creek. Later a garage was built into the bank of the same hill, providing a work shop at ground level and a place to store their Chev. truck at the basement level. Access to a walk-in root cellar was gained



Nora and Fred Sturko on farm.



Front Row: Fred and Nora Sturko, Lenora (Friedenberg). Back Row: Rosemarie (Halwa) and Betty (Pasula).

through the garage.

Fred and Nora Sturko had one cow and six hens given to them by Fred's parents. Mrs. Kozniuk (a neighbor) gave Nora chicken eggs for her setting hens. Geese and turkeys were raised in the same way. Forty acres of land were broken and prepared for seeding wheat with Fred's four horses. The logs from this land were hauled into the yard and cut and split for firewood.

Johnny Sucloy, Nora's brother, stayed with and helped the newlyweds. Johnny attended the first Progress School ever built which was taught by Mrs. Beulah Hale.

Living on the main road west of Leduc, Fred and Nora Sturko often provided meals and lodging for travellers who were on their way to many different destinations.

Friendhips were warm among the neighbors. During the Depression, many worked together, helping each other in whatever way the could. Threshing time, for example, was a community effort. After harvest these same neighbors would gather for a party of visiting and dancing. Often the old spring-wound gramophone provided the music. Children attended these functions as well.

Fred and Nora's first child, Kenneth was born in 1928, but passed away in infancy.

Three daughters; Rosemarie, Betty, and Lenora were born to the Sturkos.

Rosemarie is married to Adolph Halwa and they farm in the Wilton Park area. They have two daughters; Connie (who teaches High School in Warburg) and Karen who is married to Russell Workun. Russell and Karen have one daughter, Lisa Jayne. They make their home in Edmonton.

Mr. and Mrs. Sturko's second daughter, Betty, is married to Pat Pasula. They have three children; Patricia, Kim and Kit. Patricia is married to Randy Smith who is with the Edmonton Police Force. Patricia is employed by the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (A.U.P.E.). Kim is attending the U. of A. in the Faculty of Business Administration and Commerce. After completing one year of University,

Pat and Betty's youngest son, Kit is employed by his father who operates the Esso Bulk Agency. Kit's future plans are to continue his education. Betty teaches at the Thorsby Elementary School. They make their home in Thorsby.

Mr. and Mrs. Sturko's youngest daughter, Lenora is married to Dr. Aubrey Friedenberg. They have two daughters; Teresa (who attends Leduc High School) and Landra (who is three years old). Aubrey and Lenora operate a Chiropractic Clinic in Leduc. The Friedenbergs live in Corinthia Park in Leduc.

In 1967, Nora and Fred Sturko moved to an

apartment in Leduc.

After many years of failing health, Fred passed

away on April 26, 1970.

In 1972, Nora sold the farm and moved to Edmonton where she still resides. Nora is in good health and remains very active. Besides still practicing her long time hobby of making hooked rugs and dolls, she frequents the health spas, babysits and often visits with her friends.



Betty and Pat Pasula with their children Kit at left, Back: Randy Smith and Patricia and Kim.

PETER SWANSON FAMILY

by June Delbarre

It was the tenth of May, 1900, when Peter Swanson's covered wagon crossed the United States border bound for Alberta, the "promised land". It would have been a day or two earlier had his third son, Elmer, been a mite more cooperative. But he, like his brothers Arthur and Clarence, and his sisters Esther and Nellie, decided that he was going to be an American and that was that. And even Pete's sister Matilda Ohrn, who travelled with her family in a second covered wagon, couldn't convince him otherwise.

For Pete this was his second big move. Born in



The Old Peter Swanson home.

Bleking, Sweden, he had emigrated to the U.S. where he worked as a miner, travelling from state to state wherever the jobs were.

In Sioux City, Iowa he met Christine, a Swedish girl from Varmland, Sweden, who was visiting with her sister. They were married in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1890.

Ten years passed before Peter and Christine got caught up in the fever of the promised land where a homestead could be had for a ten dollar bill. The life of a miner had not been an easy one. Pioneering a homestead with 5 young 'uns would not be easy either. It was a big decision. A challenge not soon to be forgotten.

For Pete and Christine, the "promised land" became a quarter secion halfway between Calmar and Thorsby - SE 36-49-28 W4. There, they built their first home. It was made of logs felled on leased land. Today, only a few rhubarb plants mark the place where it stood. In this house, 2 children were born; Emma and another child, Hilve, who died.

In 1909, the Swanson's moved from the log house to the two-storey house (built closer to the Blind Line) which still stands to this day. It was a happy event. It was a fine house. In it 3 more children were born to the Swansons; Carl, Olga, and Vivian.

The years passed, the land was cleared and the children grew. Things were better now. Their early challenge had been met. Looking back, even the bad could be good if you were young enough. Carl used to say he prayed for hailstones as big as baseballs because that was a sure sign of ice cream. "And a darn good snowstorm could keep ya' out of school for weeks.", recalls Clarence. "Course Papa couldn't get to Leduc for flour and the like - shucks that didn't matter - but now that bag of candy - that did matter", he laughs. "And remember the time we all got a good laugh at poor Mama's expense?" remembers Emma. "She and Papa had gone visiting. It was cold and Mama sat on the back of the sleigh so she could jump off and walk herself into some warmth every now and then. Suddenly the horses shied and Mama fell off. She screamed to Papa but he couldn't hear her through the



Swanson Family: Arthur, Clarence, Nellie, Emma, Carl, Olive, Olga and Vivian, friend Frank. Nellie's husband Holly and Nellie's daughter, June and grandchildren. 1947.

earflaps on his heavy winter cap. Luckily, the man in the sleigh behind saw what happened, and caught up with Papa. "Hey there mister, you lost something," he said. Papa told that story many times and Mama always pretended to be quite miffed, but you could tell she thought it was funny."

When World War I broke out, the 2 older boys, Arthur and Clarence, went off to war, Clarence to serve overseas, while Arthur remained in Canada. At the end of the war Art began farming on his own and Clarence and younger brother Elmer went off to Regina to join the Royal North West Mounted Police. Young Elmer, now some six foot six, became involved in the famous manhunt for the Mad Trapper.

In the meantime, the older girls Esther and Nellie had gone to the city to work. They were to be joined later by Emma and Vivian. Olga and Carl stayed on the farm.

In 1934, Peter Swanson died. Christine moved to the city and lived with Esther until her death in 1948.

Esther, Elmer and Arthur never married. Clarence left the R.N.W.M.P. and served for 3 years in the Spanish War after which he returned to the United States and married Alma, an American girl. Nellie married Al Ferguson and had 1 daughter. Emma married Harold Krag. She is a gifted painter and has attended the Banff School of Fine Arts. Some of her paintings hang in the Vasa Lodge in Edmonton, as well as in many private homes. Carl married Olive Erickson and had 3 sons. Olga married Edwin Englund and had 1 son. Vivian married Ray Norris and had 2 sons and a daughter.

Today only 3 of the Swanson children survive. Emma and Vivian are in Vancouver, and Clarence is in Seattle, Washington. But the Swanson quarter is still Swanson ground. Olive, Carl's wife, lives in the house on the Blind Line. Her son Gordon farms now and manages a thriving dairy operation.

There are 7 great grandchildren. Three carry the Swanson name; Ryan, Trevor, and Corey. They will ensure the line.

THE HANS WENGBERG FAMILY

by Elizabeth Wengberg

Hans and Elizabeth Wengberg moved to the Progress District with their three children Terry, Lorry, and Sonya in 1968. At that time Hans operated the feed mill in Calmar and Elizabeth accepted a teaching position on the staff at Thorsby High School.

They were both involved with the youth of the community. Hans worked with minor hockey in both Calmar and Thorsby and Elizabeth with the Thorsby Cub and Brownie groups.

Today Hans operates a cow-calf business; Terry is operating a small trucking business; Lorry is pursuing a hockey career; Sonya is completing high school; and Elizabeth is Teacher-Librarian at Thorsby High School.

BABIAK



Mr. & Mrs. Metro Babiak and son Manuel.



Moving day for Babiak families. Michael, Nick, John, Mike Jr. and



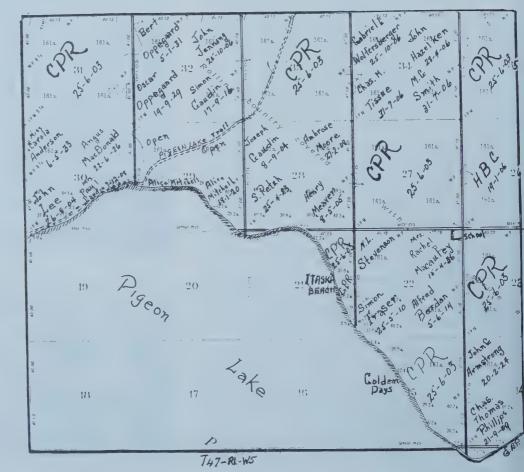
Funeral of M. Babiak, December 1930.

Sandbolm



Sandholm School, 1st teacher Mrs. Anna Wickstrom.

School Pistrict No. 4824



The First Homesteaders & Grants to the CPR

The Information on this Map Courtesy of: Alberta Prov. Archives and Alberta Gov't Map Division

STORY OF SANDHOLM SCHOOL

by Ruth Mulligan Holmgren

In 1943, a delegation of rate payers called at the Wetaskiwin School Board and requested that a school be built in this area but they were refused. The school board bluntly stated, "If you want a school, build one". No money was granted for building costs. The rate payers' final decision was to build. The site chosen was two miles north of Sandholm Beach on Harry Macaulay's farm. The two acres were soon cleared and ready for the cement foundation. All the work was donated. The only wages paid were to George Ward, the carpenter's helper. Stuart Olson drew the plans. He and Ernie Holmgren were the carpenters and started the building, and even on weekends including Sundays, the work went on. As time drew near for the beginning of the school term, women from the area were painting and varnishing floors. The School Board donated some old beat up desks and a few school books.

Before school started, a dance was held to raise money to pay for the land. Glen Park musicians donated the music. Lunch was supplied by the neighborhood women. Even some cash donations were given. A large crowd attended that night and the school site was paid for in full.

About a year later, the Wetaskiwin School Board finally paid for the cost of the building materials. What a relief it was to know that our children were going to school on a travelled road. Mrs. Anna Wickstrom was the first teacher.

About 1957 the school was closed and became the Sandholm Community Centre. The teacher's residence was sold and moved away.





Students at Sandholm School. L. to R.: Doris Quick, June LaForge, Adelaide Petuh. Front: Doug Alenius, Billy Quick.



Sandholm School ball team 1946. Back L. to R.: Bill Quick Jr., Doug Alenius, Paul Offroy, Mike Nalesnik, Joan Petuh, Doris Quick, Mary Brandabura. Front: Daniel Klatt, Eddie Nalesnik, Linda Klatt.

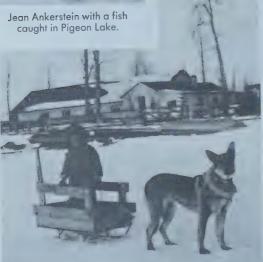
Sandholm School class 1943. Back row, L. to R.: Elaine Olson, Coral Petuh, Elsie Petuh, Vernay Macaulay. 2nd row, Joan Petuh, Bill Macaulay, Douglas Alenius, Bill Holmgren, Adelaide Petuh. 3rd row, Norman Olson, Jackie Sukeroff, Miriam Scott, Eddie Nalesnik, Delbert Scott and Gwen Scott.



Combined picnic of Sandholm and Centre Lodge schools in 1953.



Steve Petuh after a hunting trip with a friend Tom Diatis and his brothers-in-law the Meaver boys.



Nyberg's house in foreground, hall in background. Youngster in sleigh going for a ride.



 $Sandholm\,Store\,in\,background.\,Mode\,of\,winter\,travel, team\,of\,horses\,a\,bob\,sleigh.$



Holmgren's Hall at Sandholm Beach was used for recreational activities as well as a fish packing enterprise during the winter. George Ward was the caretaker and lived in a portion of the building.



George Ward and Family.



Back row: Carol Petuh, Jack Phillen, Phill Petuh. Fron row: Louise Petuh, Steve Petuh, Rose and Alvin Olson. Fish house in the background on the farm.

CARL ALENIUS STORY

Carl Alenius arrived in the Glen Park District from Sorsele, Sweden in 1920, at the age of 17 years. His Uncle Oscar Wickstrom paid his fare to come to Canada. His older brother Conrad had come earlier, but was killed in a logging camp before Carl arrived.

The cost was \$162 for his fare. He worked for Victor Flodin to pay his uncle back, which took him 2 years. He also went to Kulm school to learn English. When the debt was paid, Carl went working at many places, cutting railroad ties near Rocky Mountain House, threshing in Saskatchewan, and high rigging (trimming dead branches and tops off trees to be felled for the mill) in British Columbia.



On left: Carl Alenius, Roy Wickstrom.

After 11 years of travelling and working here and there, he settled at Big Point on Pigeon Lake (now known as Sandholm Beach). He worked for 2 years in a logging camp for Carl Johnson across the lake from Sandholm. He met Alma Sharkey who worked in the store and hotel at Mulhurst, for Benny Ouimette. They were married in 1932. In 1933, he bought 2 lakeshore lots from Fjallar Johnson for \$160. He built a three-room log cabin where their son Douglas was born. Eleven years later another son, Gary, and 2 years later a third son, Roy, blessed this couple.

During the depression he worked wherever there was work to be had. He fished commercially on all the lakes in Alberta. He cut brush for road allowances to pay taxes, trapped muskrats, and hunted rabbits which he sold to Mr. Schroeder (who had a mink ranch) for 5 cents a piece.

In 1942, he had traps set for muskrats. One morning, checking his traps, he found he had a wild female mink, which he took to Mr. Schroeder to have bred. She gave birth to 6 kits, 3 males and 3 females. This is how he started mink ranching, building his herd to 800 mink. In 1943, he bought out Mr. Schroeder and raised mink until he sold out in 1960. Some years, the price of fur was very good, and sometimes just the opposite was true.



L. to R.: Alma Armstrong, Charlotte Killaly, Agnes, Alma Alenius.

In 1950, his wife passed away. In 1951, Carl married his second wife, Agnes, a sister to Alma. She had a son Joe. They were also blessed with 2 more children, Tim, and at long last, the longed for daughter, Linda.

After selling the ranch in 1960, he decided to go home to Sweden for a visit with his father who was still alive. In the spring of 1961, he and Agnes had all the arrangements made for their trip. About 6 weeks before they were to leave, word came that his father who was 93 years old, had passed away. They made the trip anyway. Carl has been back since. In 1977, his brother came and spent 4 weeks with him, which was greatly enjoyed.

Since selling the ranch, both Mr. and Mrs. Alenius have been doing various things. He fishes commercially; she managed the Thorsby Hotel Cafe for 4 years, and since has worked at various cafes. In 1976, they went to Singapore to visit son Gary, who works in the oil industry there.



Putting ice in the ice house. L. to R.: Carl Alenius, Fjaller Johnson, Ewalt Ankerstein, Tim Alenius in front watching the operation.

His oldest son Douglas, married Laura Dumont from Edmonton. They were blessed with 2 girls and 2 boys. Douglas now resides in Edmonton.

His step-son Joe married Doreen Restall from Edmonton. They have 1 son and 1 daughter and also

live in Edmonton.

Son Gary married Doreen Martell. They had 2 daughters. Then were divorced and he married Judy Field. They now live in Indonesia.

Roy married Patricia Roseberry from Leduc. They have 3 girls. In 1977, he was in a car accident and is

now a quadraplegic. They live in Calgary.

The youngest son, Tim, married Beverly Kushnyrick from Thorsby. They have no children and make their home in Edmonton.

Daughter Linda married Clarence Halladay from Thorsby. They have 2 sons and live in Edmonton.

In 1968 the Alenius' built a new home in Thorsby, and are semi-retired. Mr. Alenius, at 75 years, still fishes commercially. Mrs. Alenius, at 60 years, still works in cafes. They both belong to Vasa Lodge as well as to the Thorsby Senior Citizens Club.

ERICKSON, DAVE

by Dave Erickson

My grandparents on my father's side were Olaf and Anna Erickson. Six children were born to them, 3 girls and 3 boys - two of whom died in the United States. The remaining four came with their parents and settled in the Willow Creek area in 1899. The one remaining boy, Fred, was my father.

On my mother's side, my grandparents were Ludwig and Selma Nystrom. They came from Forswall, Sweden and settled in the Kulm district in about 1901. A large family was born to them, with 6 of them still alive today. One of them, Charlotte (Lottie) was my mother.



Erickson family: Dave, Dorothy, Judy, Thad and Chris, 1977.

My parents were married in 1905, with mother being only 16 years old. I had 8 sisters.

I was born on April 19, 1916 on my father's homestead and went to the Willow Creek School. Some of my teachers were Miss McGillis (now Mrs. Dickson), Mr. Patrick, Miss Chapman, Miss Selma Ekstrom (now Mrs. Carrons), Mrs. Eric Dickson, Mr. Creighton, and Mr. Fors. I had 2 miles to walk to school, which wasn't bad for those days, but in the snow it was still tough going with no decent roads. After grade 8, I went to Thorsby for more schooling and Miss Blades (Dr. Hankin's wife-to-be) was then the teacher there.

After I quit school, the depression was beginning and things were starting to get rough. I stayed with my parents and farmed for the next few years, doing a few odd jobs in the winter to earn a little extra money. I left home in 1940 and married Dorothy Petuh from Pigeon Lake on March 15, 1941. We lived on my parents farm for one summer and then moved to Pigeon Lake where we lived in a log house on an acre of land, which was later sold in 1949.

I worked for wages for the next while and when we were expecting our first child, I bought a 1929 Chev car so I could take my wife back and forth to the doctor in Wetaskiwin. On November 9, 1942, our first daughter, Patricia was born, who died two days later of a lung disorder. She is buried in the Fisherton Cemetery. I sold the car to pay the bills, did a short stint in the army and when I was discharged, I went to work in sawmills and did other various jobs. We always had a cow or two for milk and had our own fresh vegetables and meat, but there was never much money for any luxuries. During this time I had bought a 1929 Ford convertible for \$125 and sold it in May, 1945 when our second baby was on the way. On June 7, 1945 our second daughter, Judy, was born.

We spent the next couple of winters in sawmills, one of these being the Coleman Kiss Mill at Buck Lake. Dorothy helped cook for the men while I worked in the mill. During the summer we got work on farms and lived in our house by the lake.

We decided it was time for a change. In 1948, we packed up our 1932 Ford V8, one of the first V8's made and went to Alsask, Sask. where another fellow and I farmed 3200 acres. That fall we returned to our house by the lake, stayed the winter, and the next spring went to Vauxhall, Alberta and tried working in the irrigation country. This was not to our liking so the next summer we went back to Saskatchewan, where we worked for the next four years.

In 1953 we had enough money to start farming on our own. We bought a homestead from Jim Clark (NW 22-47-1-W5), some machinery and started clearing land. I cleared 20 acres by hand and a year or so later got John Hakstol in to brush cut all but a few acres which we left in bush. The house on the farm was made of log and in need of some repair. For the first winter we stuffed the cracks with moss to help keep out the cold and then the following summer we



A family reunion at Dorothy and Dave Erickson's yard when they lived on a farm at Pigeon Lake before retiring.

remodelled it. One luxury we did have was a fridge that ran on coal oil.

During this time Judy had started school at Sandholm. She had a mile to walk which she did for the next 6 years. Then the higher grades were sent to Thorsby, with the kids still walking to the Sandholm School where the bus picked them up. Shortly after, the country schools were closing down and all the kids commuted to Thorsby by bus, which by that time picked them up at the gate.

In 1955 we bought a 110 volt light plant and a television; this was a real treat as power had not yet come to that part of the country. This finally came to the area in 1958.

We worked hard for the next few years, farming, doing odd jobs for the beach people, net fishing at various lakes and were soon able to sell my Massey Harris Pacemaker tractor and buy something a little newer. We used the binder and threshing machine until 1964 when I got my first combine. Things got a little easier for us in the next few years and we built a new house in 1964 and quit milking cows.

By this time Judy had finished school, worked in Edmonton for a couple of years, and on July 10, 1964 married Harvey Bentley from Sunnybrook. They have 2 boys and live in the Sunnybrook district.

In June, 1975 we sold the farm and in October, 1975 we moved to Thorsby where we bought a house and retired.



Dave Erickson with his 1929 Ford, in front of the house they lived in when first married.

FRASER — MEAVER

by Verna Scott

Colin Fraser was born in 1805 in Scotland and came to Governor George Simpson in 1832. In 1835 he became postmaster at Jasper House and served there for 15 years. He married a daughter of Louis and Lizette Beadry at Fort Carlton in 1832. He died April 19, 1867.



Seated: Adelaide (Fraser) Groat. Daughter: Margaret (Groat) Hutchison.

To this union 12 children were born. Of these, Henry married Margaret Ann Pruden; Johnmarried Sarah Vincent; Nancy married Philip Tate; Flora married James Gullion; Colin Jr. and some brothers and sisters married into the Rowland family of Ft. Edmonton. Simon was born at Jasper House Nov. 13, 1947. He married Sophie Brazeau and their graves are at Rundle Mission and are known as the "Fraser graves". Her parents were Joseph Edward Brazeau born 1810 in St. Louis, Missouri and his wife Margaret Brabant, one of 8 children born to Augustine Brabant and Angelique Lucier. Joseph Edward Brazeau worked at Fort Carlton in 1842. He died in 1870, is buried in St. Albert.



Henry Meaver at the Rowley Sawmill Pigeon Lake in 1914.



L. to R.: Harry Macaulay, Fred Meaver, Dave Erickson, friends and Phill Petuh, bear.

A son of the Brazeau's, George Washington Brazeau died in a shooting accident in 1880 and is also buried in St. Albert. They had a daughter Adelaide who married Daniel Noyes and a daughter Maria who married Joseph McGillis. Joseph's parents were Augustus Brazeau born 1787, from Illinois and Melanie St. Cir born 1793 of French-Spanish extraction.

Simon Fraser's oldest child was a daughter Sarah born 1872 at Great Slave Lake and she married Henry Meaver and was the mother of the Meaver children who grew up at Pigeon Lake. They were Louise (married Petuh) Nancy (married twice Marion and Evenson) Charles, Christie (married Moore) Fred, Dan, Alice (married Wagar) Elsie (married Evenson) and Simon.

Other children of Simon Fraser were Nancy (married Shipley and Stevenson) Louisa (married John Lee Jr.) Rachel (married Courtraille) Betsy (married L. Ingram Wood) Adelaide (married Groat) Harry, Philip and Sammy.



Sarah Meaver, Joan, Adelaide, niece Fleda Moore, nephew Bob Meaver, niece Nancy Moore, Shirley Petuh.

STORY OF HOLMGREN FAMILY

by Ruth Mulligan Holmgren

The early settlers at Sandholm were: Fjallar Johnson, Carl and Alma Alenius, Mr. Ecklund Sr., Stewart and Esther Olson, Charlie and Bobby Champion, Olaf Nyberg, his daughter Freda Smaltz and her husband Hugo, August Carlson and Mrs. Hulda Wickstrom.

In 1932, E.A. Holmgren came from Edmonton to Sandholm to buy fish for Mr. Wm. Menzies. The Menzies Fish Plant was located in Edmonton. From there the fish were shipped by rail to markets in Chicago and New York. Later Ernie A. Holmgren bought some lots at Sandholm, built a small fish plant a small house and store combined. He later built a dance hall. He had a gas pump and sold gasoline and coal oil.

Ernie, a widower had three children and one grandchild, Cal Holmgren, Esther Wotherspoon (later Webb) and Ernest Frederick, a son. A granddaughter, Grace Wotherspoon, married Dr. Wm. Bobey and had three children: Geoffrey, Nicke and Andrew.



Esther Holmgren, daughter of E.A. Holmgren. Now Mrs. Geoff Webb.



Nellie Holmgren, daughter of E.A. Holmgren.

Ernest A. Holmgren and Ruth Mulligan were married in 1935. Their son George William was born in 1936. Ernest F. Holmgren enlisted in the RCAF in 1941. He was stationed in England and was also a Thunderbird pilot in India for two years. He returned to Canada in 1945 as a Squadron Leader. In November of that year he married Betty Ann Dowler who had been overseas as a RCAF WD and worked as a wireless operator. They had a family of four: Twins, Judith and Carol; Steven and Deborah. Judith (Mrs. Kenneth Moodie) lives in Ottawa. They have two children: Geoffrey and Jason. Ernest F. graduated from the University of Alberta in 1949 as a civil engineer. He was a member of the South Side Lions and a one-time Governor. Ernest F. passed away in October, 1978.

Our third son, Geo, Wm., lives in Calgary where he is manager of Garlock Ltd. In 1959, he married Maxine Norcross at Moosomin, Sask. They have two



E.F. Holmgren.



Ernest Holmgren, Bill Holmgren, Ruth Holmgren in 1939.

daughters: Lisa age 18 and Maureen, 14.

During World War II years, gasoline, tea, sugar and coffee were rationed which meant extra work for garage and store-keepers. We had to haul all of our store supplies with a half-ton truck for which we were allowed extra gallons of gasoline. M. Samardzic Sr. delivered our gasoline and coal oil.

In the year 1939, Ernie Jr. was buying and packing whitefish for the W.R. Menzie Fish Co. His father with a coronary condition, was in bed at our home. We missed his help, but were managing by working longer hours. I was the storekeeper and housewife. Meals were not always on time but no complaints; and no problems until that day when Harvey Ayers drove from Mulhurst, where he lived, to Sandholm on the ice.

Two men were with Harvey to help load the heavy boxes of fish to go to the Menzie Fish Plant. Harvey and his brother Orren had recently bought a large new truck and had hauled a large load of coal across the ice from Mulhurst to Sandholm. The fish truck used the same route. Fifteen minutes after they left with the fish truck the three men walked into our store. I noticed that their legs were wet. Then they told me that the load of fish was in twenty feet of water. They had time only to escape, not even time to turn off the headlights which continued to burn for twelve hours and aided in saving the cargo. After cutting the ropes of the tarpaulin, the fish-boxes floated to the surface, were then taken back to our fish plant and re-packed with fresh ice. Neighbors volunteered to help and by next morning the fish were once more ready to go. Mr. Menzies sent a truck out from Edmonton and early next morning the fish boxes were away to the Fish Plant. We, the women, had a sleepless night serving lunch and coffee to the tired men who worked all

Those were the days when trouble came, friends and neighbors were there to help.

FJALLAR JOHNSON'S EXPERIENCES NEAR PIGEON LAKE

from an interview August 1978

Fjallar has fished the lake for 60 winters and began in 1918. In 1924 the fish seemed scarce but when fishermen changed to a different type of net, they increased their catch. The lake was actually full of fish.

The biggest catch was taken about 1926 when a total of 500,000 lbs. was taken in three days. The whitefish were shipped in refrigerator cars to Chicago and New York City. The fish were always small, averaging 2½ to 3 lbs. until a government fish inspector named Williams, had a different kind of whitefish planted in the lake. The new type weighed 3 to 4 lbs. and were put in the lake in 1939. A few years later the fish caught weighed 3 to 4 lbs. which was an improvement.

One winter, about 1956, the fishing season opened on Dec. 1, and the lake was not completely frozen over. Edsel Wickstrom skated into a spot of open water and Carl Alenius rode towards the spot on a bicycle, threw him a rope and pulled him out. There were possibly 200 men fishing on the lake at the time, a sudden gust of wind could have swept them all into the open water.

Fjallar married a widow, Adelia Wickstrom Jonson in 1937. She had three daughters. The next year Adelia and their unborn baby daughter died. He raised the three Jonson girls. One is now deceased, one lives in Vancouver, B.C. and one lives in Leduc.

He remarried and he and his wife now are retired into Breton. He has always enjoyed good health and has never seen a doctor. The first toothache Fjallar ever had came when he was 81 years old. He remembers his most exciting adventure happened when he was 15 years old. He was watering the cows and fell into the well and had to be fished out.

RUDOLPH ROY KLATT

Rudolph came to Canada at the age of 4. His parents, John and Teofiela, and his brothers came from Kronendal, Russia to settle in the area.

Rudolph was married to Hulda Bieirbach in 1932, whose parents also came from Russia, and they first settled in Kulm, North Dakota. Later they moved to Medicine Hat and still later moved to the Dniester area where Hulda received education. Hulda and her parents, Andreas and Bertha, lived there till her marriage to Rudolph.

The Klatts resided in Tomahawk and Leduc before settling on their farm at Sandholm, which they purchased from the C.P.R. in 1939. At that time they had 3 children: Olinda, Daniel and Jacob. In 1940 a daughter, Lena, joined the family. Olinda and Daniel attended school at Spring Hill before the Sandholm School was opened in 1943, with Anna Wickstom



First house built on the Rudolph Klatt farm. Olinda, Daniel and Jacob standing by house.



Rudolph and Hulda Klatt with daughter Lena, 1945.

being the first teacher. Later all the children were educated there. In 1946 Rudolph's parents built a house on the Klatt farm, where they lived till their death. John passed away on October 27, 1951 followed by his wife's passing on June 27, 1952.

On November 14, 1952 Olinda married Vernon Halladay. They have 9 children: Caroline, Lorraine, Doreen, Calvin, Sheila, Alma, Carmen, Fern and Iris. They made their home in the Mulhurst area.

In 1958 Lena married Roman Lichon and to them were born 5 children: Lonnie, Elaine, Brenda, Norma and Mathew. Roman and Lena resided at St. Francis, Alberta.

In 1960 Jacob married Dorothy Shantz from Alsask, Sask. They lived in Calgary. To this couple were born 2 children: Marlin and Wanda. At the age of 6 years, a fatal illness took Wanda's life in March of 1970.

In 1963 Daniel married Colleen Beacon. They lived in Edmonton and Vancouver. This marriage ended in divorce. Later Daniel married Diane Lawrence. They have 1 child, Debbie, from Diane's previous marriage. They reside in Leduc.

During the time Rudolph and Hulda lived in the community, Rudolph worked with a number of saw mills, one of them belonging to Jim Morrow.

In the summer Rudolph farmed his half section of land and during the winter months, he worked out in the lumber mills, sometimes taking him to the "Coleman Kiss" mill at Winfield or to Blue Ridge, or wherever the jobs were available.

Hulda's father, Andreas Bieirbach, came to live with the Klatts to spend his aging years prior to his death in December, 1972 at the age of 91 years.

In 1963, after a slight stroke, Rudolph was advised by his doctor to give up farming, so he had an auction sale of all his machinery and livestock.

In November of 1963 the Klatt's bought a house in Wetaskiwin where they reside at the present time.



John and Theofiela Klatt (nee Stienke) Parents of Rudolph Klatt.

HALLADAY AND RIENHOLD LANGE HISTORY

written by Mildred Lange

My grandfather, Richard Halladay, came from Gananoque, Ont. to the Weed Creek district in 1904 and bought the NE 3-48-1-W5 shortly after the district was surveyed.

He brought his 2 oldest sons, Arthur aged 14 and Conrad aged 12, with him, but left behind, his wife Margaret, the children's step-mother, 1 daughter and 2 small sons. Later his wife came out but couldn't cope with the wild west, so returned east. His daughter Blanche came west as far as Wetaskiwin but returned home too.

Richard's cousin Gord Austin was minister of the Anglican Church in Wetaskiwin in 1900.

The farm Richard and his sons lived on is situated 7 miles straight south of Thorsby. He also homesteaded the farm now owned by Walter Dublanko.

The home place was bordered on the west by a creek with a large meadow all along the west side. The buildings were built of hewn logs and were located on the south side of a lovely spruce grove. Some of the old-timers at that time said they remembered when the meadow was covered with about 3 ft. of ashes. The beavers had built large dams on the south end and one



Mr. and Mrs. Richard Halladay 1926.

right across the middle. It was so high they dug the east end out and built a root cellar big enough that they could walk into. Later it was all worked down to make the meadow smoother.

There were lots of Indians around in those times and they used to meet on the quarter, cornering Richard's farm to the southwest, and hold their pow-wows. That was where the Wetaskiwin trail and Edmonton trail met and then went on to Robert Rundle's Mission site at Pigeon Lake.

When they ran out of "fire water" they tied a couple of jugs over 2 ponies' backs and sent 2 young boys in to Wetaskiwin for more. There was a creek with high ridges on both sides with meadows along

them for their horses to pasture in.

Balls of pemmican that the Indians had buried can still be found on Richard's farm and on the ones surrounding it. They look like balls of hamburger with streaks of white in them which I guess was the meal they put in the pemmican. One can see where they were tied with leather strings to hold them together.

Richard and the boys worked at odd jobs, and kept a few cattle and pigs. Sometimes they had to go to Wetaskiwin, the closest town, for feed for the pigs. They used a team of horses. Richard was the first Justice of the Peace in the district.

A few years later Richard returned to Ontario, leaving the boys to look after themselves. Years later Richard and Margaret, his wife, both returned to Alberta and remained here until their deaths. Margaret died in Mar. 1944, and Richard passed away in May, 1946.

Conrad Hallady, my father, was born in Ganonque, Ont. in 1894. He bought the original farm from his father. When he was young he cut his foot with an axe very badly. They took him to live with a part Indian family until it was healed. The mother



Conrad and Frances Halladay,

gathered certain leaves and roots and made a poultice out of them that healed the cut. He said the mother cooked all of the food in a big frying pan and set it in the middle of the floor for all the children to gather around and eat out of it.

My father Conrad, at the age of 14, drove a team of horses helping to build the railroad grade in the district southeast of Camrose. In 1913, at the age of 19, he took the job of J.P. over from his dad and was constable at large, meaning firewarden and game warden as well as J.P.

In 1919, Conrad met and married Frances Clark of Millet. Her father and mother had come from Ontario

in 1900. She was born later the same year.

Conrad and Frances had 12 children. Ellen, the oldest daughter, died at 16 years of age. Florence is now Mrs. Gus Sontag. I am Mrs. Rienhold Lange. Richard lives in Erickson, B.C. Arnold lives in Creston. Margaret is Mrs. Gorrel of Duncan, B.C. Lillian is Mrs. Bohmer also of Duncan. Beatrice is Mrs. Blaine Hanna and also lives in Duncan. B.C. Wilbur is deceased. Edgerton lives in Weyburn, Saskatchewan. Wenonah is deceased. Sybil lives in Vancouver, B.C.

Mother churned butter and traded it for groceries. In winter they fished on Pigeon Lake and sold the fish.

When Florence was about 18 months old she developed pneumonia and the nearest doctor was in Millet. Herb Vath, one of their neighbors, had an old truck but it had no lights. This was in winter so they tied coal oil lanterns on the front and Mom rode in the back with Florence while they took her to the doctor. They made it safely and saved the little girl's life.

Conrad and Frances' home was the stopping place for the men hauling lumber from Morrow's Mill about 10 miles west. They would stop and feed their horses and eat at Dad's place. One day, when Mom and Dad were away and only we 3 older girls were at home alone, a man stopped on his way through. He had long grey hair and a long grey beard and we were very frightened. Dad knew him very well and he told Dad later that we were so frightened he had a notion to stay with us. Little did he know that it was him we were afraid of.

There was no school in those days but some people in Edmonton who owned a farm a few miles away used to come out in summer and their daughter, Lily Watts, got permission from the Govt. to teach us. Dad built desks and chairs out of edgings from the lumber mill so we older girls and children from 2 other families attended classes at their home.

In 1930, the Centre Lodge School was built and we kids attended there. The roads were very bad; in winter we drove a horse and enclosed cutter to school. In summer time 4 of us would sometimes ride an old buckskin horse. We had $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles to go to school.

We older children finished school at Centre Lodge but the younger ones went to Sandholm after it was built.

The 2 great events of the year in those days were the Christmas concert and the picnic at the end of the term. All the people in the neighborhood would gather for the picnic. On Sundays nearly everyone would hitch up their horses and drive to Pigeon Lake to have a picnic and watch the ball games.

To earn extra money my dad and uncle Arthur cut timbers from the bush. They were cut about 8 ft. long to corduroy the road in the swamp 2 miles north of our place. This road is now part of the paved section running south from Thorsby to Pigeon Lake. I remember when I was about 12 years old we hitched up the horses and drove to Morrow's lumber camp where we all had dinner in the cook shack with the men.

Another time we decided to go and see what the new town of Thorsby was like. It seemed like we travelled many a mile as we were using the team and a lumber wagon. We came to a place where some men were grubbing trees. Dad stopped to talk and they told us there was no need to go any further as there was nothing to see there yet. Little did we realize we were only a mile from the town as the place where we stopped was Pasulas' farm, that Besler now owns.

My father's homestead was NE 10-48-1 W5 and there was a tamarac swamp on it. He decided to log it off and my 11 year old brother and I, at 13, helped to skid and haul the logs, about 2 miles across country in the winter time. In Feb. the snow was almost gone, we would drive from 1 patch of snow to another and the gophers were running all over.

Sometimes in March the snow would be all gone with water standing in the low meadows; it would freeze really hard at night and the ice would be smooth. We had the nicest skating rink one could ever wish for.

Conrad was an ardent Social Crediter and we used to hold meetings in our home when Social Credit first came into power in Alberta. Many times Mr. Ansley was a guest in our home. He later was elected M.L.A.

When we were young hay was stacked with a buck sweep; it was a timber about 10 x 12 inches and 16 ft. long. A team of horses was hitched onto chains about 12 ft. long. Dad used to drive a team himself and my brother Richard, aged 11, and I, aged 13, each drove a team. We would drive astride a bunch of hay, then drive up to the stack with a team on each side. We would pile the hay up until the stack was high enough and then Dad would top the stack off with a fork.

Dad had a milk route, hauling it with horses and wagon over a 17 mile route. If he could not go my 2 older sisters Ellen and Florence, who were 14 and 15 years old, would go with the milk.

I recall one day the neighbor's horse had strayed away and he finally found it at New Sarepta. His name was Don McLean and he asked Dad to go get it back for him with our car. They got stuck in a mudhole and it took all night to get home leading the horse behind the car. Dad walked the last 6 miles to get home in time to go with the milk. When he reached home he found the cows had all been milked, the horses harnessed and the girls had already left with the milk.

It was hauled to the cheese factory in Thorsby.

My parents farmed until 1945, then decided to move to Creston, B.C. The younger 7 children went with them, they lived in Creston for about 15 years, then moved to North Surrey. From there they moved to Weyburn, Saskatchewan where my youngest brother now lives. They lived there for a few years and now live on Vancouver Island.



The Reinhold Lange family.

In 1944, I married Rienhold Lange of Millet; he was the son of John Lange and had gone to the Portabello School. He had gone to work for a farmer in the Conjuring Lake district when he was 18 years old. Later he bought a farm just west of Dad's place and we moved there.

We had 9 children. Gayle, the oldest is married to David Rasch and they have 2 little boys, Dale and Barry. They live in the Morrowdale district and have a dairy farm. They were married in 1966.

Donna finished school in Thorsby and worked in Wetaskiwin for an insurance office and later for the Treasury Branch. She married Marvin Buskas in 1975 and lives southeast of Wetaskiwin on a grain farm. They have 2 little girls Terrena and Sherri-Lynn.

Marilyn graduated from high school and also went to Wetaskiwin to work as a telephone operator. From there she went to Camrose and then decided to further her education and attended business college in Edmonton. She now works in an insurance and real estate office.

Paul and Ken farm together and Paul has bought the farm from his father that was originally Richard Halladay's land. It has been in the Halladay family since 1904. Ken is married to the former Bev Scheetz and they have 2 daughters, Charlene and Patricia Anne who was born Feb. 3, 1979. Ken and Bev live on his dad's former farm.

When Rienhold and I were first married we lived on the farm west of Dad's place and that first winter he rode horseback 10 miles to work in a coal mine at Wizard Lake.

In 1947, Rienhold sold the farm to Fred Krueger and started trucking. He hauled cattle and cream to Edmonton. Then we bought a farm in the Sandholm district in 1950 and moved onto it. Rienhold quit hauling stock and started a milk route hauling milk to the Thorsby cheese factory. He quit that after a few years and worked for the County of Leduc for 11 years, also doing the farming and in winters worked in logging camps.

He quit that in 1965 and we started milking cows. After 10 years we sold the cows to Paul and Ken and lived on Paul's farm for a couple of years. The boys bought our home place in 1977 and we moved onto our other farm.

Alberta

Alb

ROMAN LICHON FAMILY

Roman Lichon was born at St. Francis on July 6, 2 1937 where he lived with his parents, Tofield and & Helen Lichon, his brother Charles, and 2 sisters Sophie and Elizabeth.

Roman received his education at Howard School where Constance Burnett was the teacher.

As a boy Roman helped his father and brother on the farm, later working on jobs such as the pipe line and doing custom combining.

Roman's father had a fatal heart attack and passed away in January 1952, leaving Charles and Roman to provide for the family.

Roman married Lena Klatt on April 28, 1958 and resided in St. Francis area. In July they purchased the Steve Kovac farm where they lived for 7 years. Roman and Lena have five children: Lonnie, Elaine, Brenda, Norma and Mathew.

Lonnie and Elaine attended Genesee School, where Mrs. Avis McKee was teaching.

In January 1964, Roman and his family moved to the Rudolph Klatt farm at Sandholm where they lived for 4 years before they purchased the land. The children then were transported by bus to Thorsby School.

Roman farmed the land. In winter months he was employed as a truck driver for Vernon Lee to work in the oil fields, which took him away from home to the northern part of the province.

In 1971 Roman went into business for himself purchasing a Mobile Feed Unit, and he processed feed for many farmers.

In 1974 the Lichons sold the farm and moved to an acreage by the lake where they lived for 2 years. Roman then sold the feed mill and started the trucking business known as "Itaska Sand and Gravel."

On July 31, 1976 Brenda Lichon married Jackson McAmmond and they make their home in Leduc. A daughter Tammi joined the McAmmond home.

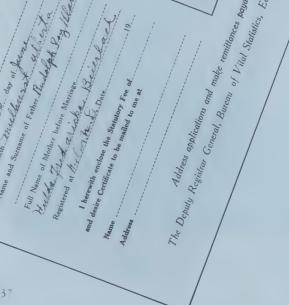
On September 10, 1977 Elaine married Gary Albert and they also made their home in Leduc.

Lonnie, eldest son of Roman and Lena, married Joann Tylke on August 19, 1978 and made their home in Wetaskiwin.

Roman, Lena, Norma and Mathew now live on their second acreage which was purchased from Eric Grohn

Roman is still trucking at the present time.

Chi.



HENRY MEAVER FAMILY

submitted by Mrs. Martin Evenson

My sisters and I moved from Edmonton with our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meaver, to Pigeon Lake during the summer of 1905. My father owned a house in Edmonton which he traded for a team of horses, heavy wagon and enough staples to last our family of 6 for a year. Our land was located where Itaska Beach is today. We stayed with my grandparents while Dad cleared enough land on which to build a house.



Henry Meaver taking a rest, during his day of hunting.



Henry Meaver Family. Pigeon Lake, 1915. Back, L. to R.: Louise, Nancy. Middle: Alice, Mrs. Meaver holding Elsie. Front: Dan, Charles, Fred.

My grandparents were Simon and Sophie Fraser. Before my parents came to Pigeon Lake, my grandparents divided their time between Edmonton and the country. After my parents arrived, my grandparents located permanently at Pigeon Lake.

My dad built the house of peeled poplar logs, plastered with clay. The partitions were made of sheets forming sections for kitchen, bedrooms, etc. During the first summer we cleared enough land for the next year's garden. My dad worked at logging that first winter. We had brought with us from Edmonton a cow which had a calf. This was the start of our herd. A shed next to the house was used for cooling the milk. This is where my mother put the milk to set so the cream would rise to the top. A big treat was pure cream laced with sugar and cinnamon, (once in a long time).

My mother made all the soap used by the family. Brush was burned and the ashes leached to obtain the necessary lye.

The first school I attended was Lakedell. In the winter we crossed the lake on the ice. There was a store at Crystal Springs owned by Ingraham Woods. The Woods were my aunt and uncle. I stayed with them at times when I went to school. Later the Spring Hill School was opened. School started in April and finished in December. About 25 students attended (ages 6-18). Miss McLean was the teacher at this time.

My dad worked at Rowley's sawmill, Mulhurst during the summer. He was part time pilot on one of Rowley's steam boats and when he was doing this I would sometimes go with him. I prepared the lunch for a crew of 3 or 4 men. In winter he worked in the bush. Logs were hauled to the lake and piled on the shore. After the ice was gone in the spring a key log would be released letting the logs fall into the lake. Then they were formed into booms and pulled to the sawmill by a steamboat.

I went to work at the age of 16, on a farm near Wetaskiwin. I worked from dawn to dusk and received the great sum of \$10. a month. I worked at different places until I was 24. In 1924 I married Victor Marion who was raised in Red Deer. After 9 years of marriage my husband died, leaving me with 4 children. I received the Mother's Allowance, \$30 per month. It was impossible to get by on that so I did part-time work. After being a widow for 5 years, I married Martin Evenson in 1938. We lived in Calmar for 6 years, moved back to Pigeon Lake where we farmed for 5 years, then sold the farm and retired.

Children from my first marriage were Daniel, 1925; May Emily, 1927; Georgina, 1929; and Lawrence, 1933. One son, Walter, 1939, was born of my second marriage.

At the time of this writing, my husband and I are at the Cloverleaf Manor in Warburg.

LYLE AND VERNA SCOTT

by Verna Scott

Perhaps 1938 was the first time I was at Pigeon Lake. It was when my father Martin Evenson married my step-mother Nancy (Marion nee Meaver). The history of so much significance from Rundle Mission the one location served in turn by every one of the early Methodist Missionaries — Rundle, Sinclair, Woolsey, McDougall and Steinhauer, has appealed to me as long as I have heard the stories.

The Fraser graves and the remnants of Sinclair's cabin still exist near the same flowing spring. The Petuh, Macaulay, Dahl and our family, besides others of course, played ball on the hill above the spring where Sadie Dowler's home is located. That was originally the location of the Fisher Home Post Office, a two-story building owned by John Lee. The mail was carried by George Senek 1910-1913 from Bonnie Glen on horseback. Later Forest Quick became the postmaster and Bert Covar became the mail carrier. I believe Jewison homesteaded the property in 1909.

Later, Fisher Home store was owned by W. Treleaven, located where Walter Hanas now has the store. There was a ball diamond east of that store too, Gilwood - named after Luana Gilbert and her husband Jack Woods. Armbuster owned what is now Zeiner Park, and there used to be a beautiful trail all along the lake between Mission Beach and Fisher Home.

Fisherton School, my first teaching location, had been one of the earliest in the Columbia Municipality. Apparently there had been many sawmills around the lake, such as those of Roy Durant, Morrow, Dan McLean, Snell, Carl Johnson, Van Volkenberg, Roy Armstrong, Rowley, etc. Nancy Stevenson's first husband Shipley was a cook at McLean's mill. Arthur Halladay hauled water with a team of oxen.

When our family moved to NW 24-47-1 W5, I never realized that, that farm would some day belong to Lyle and my own family, Judy (now Mrs. Cyril Vezina), Darlene and Miles. That quarter was homesteaded by Casey Ayres, who also homesteaded around Warburg. He remembers some of the largest spruce (4 feet in diameter) were taken from this quarter to the A.B. Rowley mill at Mulhurst. (As a young girl, I walked to the high school being held that year in what is now Joe Dowler's home at the Pigeon Lake Golf Club.)

In 1956 we bought our Mulhurst village property from Mr. Sjostin, and there we lived until 1964 when we moved into our new home on the hill. We could see the Springhill School from that location - saw it burn to the ground on Oct. 4, 1966. John and Nellie Komives owned and lived in it at this time. Nellie says the bell from Springhill was sold to the Russian Orthodox church 2 miles south and 2 miles east of Thorsby.

Our Mulhurst property is now subdivided and sold to other owners. Scott Avenue is the land we donated to the development. The 3 quarters we owned "on the



L. to R.: Judith, Verna (Mother), Lyle (Dad), Darlene and Myles Scott.

hill" until 1974 now belong to Jerry Hanson and Von Butler.

In 1947, the summer we were married, I was employed by what was then the Strawberry School Division to teach at the Telfordville School. This was on the Karback (now Joe Horutko) quarter. The pupils I had that year were mostly Klein and Scheetz, also Ankerstein, Switlyk, Wurban, Lunde, Yanish and Krysa. That school was either more easily heated or we had a "hotter" janitor. One winter morning the school was so warm that the children's crayons were all melted together! That was the spring when the teacherage almost floated away in the spring flood, but there was nowhere else to sleep, so I just hiked up my skirt and waded through after school hours. Edward Scheetz bought the school in 1957 and moved it to be a machine shed in 1960.

I taught in the West Jasper Place School (and Canora), then we bought a seismograph outfit - Scott Drilling Ltd. - and travelled with that business until we moved to Mulhurst area in 1956. Lyle drilled many of the water wells in that area. The outfit was sold to Bob Lindberg. While living in the Mulhurst area we were active in the St. James United Church and the Sandholm Community Centre.

When we moved into Thorsby in 1974, and after Lyle's heart surgery, we took a renewed interest in compiling histories. Some families at that time were showing keen interest in having a book published. Genealogy is really fascinating. Lyle's family can be traced back five generations to a Farnak Scott, a glassblower in England. On my father Martin's paternal line we trace to Haagen Evenson Spillplads, 1777, and his parents Even Haagensen and Sigrid Olsdatter.

FRANCIS FREDERICK SCOTT (SPIDER)

by Verna Scott

Francis was born Sept. 1, 1916 to Leonard and Nettie Scott. Nettie's maiden name was Agnes Phillips, and Francis was their third son. Leonard had been one of the first barbers in Millet in 1909.

Francis attended school in Willow Creek, and remembers teachers Tillie Knutson (now Mrs. Charlie Erickson) and Mrs. Wilfred Dixon.

In 1939 when he was planning to marry Eva Land who was born Aug. 11, 1920, he met the Rev. Douglas McTavish. The McTavishes were living at the time on Cutfoot Hill on the old Allio place. They rented two rooms in the house from Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ruff while the manse in Telfordville was being built.

Francis, known as Spider, was a pipe welder in the Turner Valley oil field from 1940 to '46. Gas was piped out of the flare lines directly into the home. No regulator; 250 lbs. of pressure per sq. inch. The lids of a stove had to be turned over every month to warp them the other way.

In 1946 it was time to settle down to farming, an occupation he had always wanted, and their daughter Mildred was old enough to go to school. He bought the SW 25-47-1 W5 from Laura and Bill Sukeroff. A log house on it had been built in 1928 and still stands in 1978.

Just outside the house on a slough, Laura had built a steam bath. Rocks were heated and simply dropped into the water. Mr. Sukeroff claimed that he had lost 3 head of cattle in the slough, which was deep.

Spider remembers a cougar jumping on a horse and ripping hide off the hind quarters. To keep the road open to Sandholm corner, he and Nick Stashko snowplowed with four horses. Joe Macaulay had a threshing machine at the time. Later, Earl Graves had a combine. When Spider couldn't get threshed they set up the combine, cut the sheaves and fed them into the machine by hand. He and Lyle Scott had a unique shower system at the end of a day's work. They took the water from the radiator of the tractor in a 5 gal. pail that had a nozzle welded to the bottom and used it.

Spider also had a buzz-saw and built wood splitters, a root harrow and root picker. They sometimes had to make their own plowshares and he and Lyle made their first swather from a 7 foot Massey binder.

Their daughter Mildred was born when Dr. Hankin attended the Thorsby Hospital at the Burgess farm. She is now Mrs. Frank Birchtold of Oliver, B.C. She has three children, Sandra, Teresa and Miles and one grandchild.

Their son Roy, born Nov. 8, 1941 at High River, is now married to Norma nee Hougestol. They have two children and live in Wetaskiwin.

WALTER (BUD) AND HAZEL SCOTT

Hazel Evenson became the bride of Bud Scott on October 30, 1933. They lived west of Millet and while there, four children were born. They were Gwen,



Bud and Hazel Scott and family.

Miriam, Walter and Delbert. Later, a daughter, Gloria, was added to the family.

On March 16, 1942, the family moved to a farm near Mulhurst. They came with a truck, driving in compound low. The trails were poor and often corduroyed and the dog could walk easily beside the truck without even puffing.

The farm was formerly C.P.R. land. There was one acre of cleared land. A log house with a tar paper roof, a log barn with a straw roof and a log chicken house were located on the land.

The Scott family came with seven cows, two sows and five horses. The biggest hardship each day, was to haul water from a spring on the next quarter for the animals and then to go to a neighbor's for good drinking water.

Because of the water situation, the family moved to a farm close by that belonged to Hazel's dad. There were better buildings here also. They lived here for three years and then moved back to their own farm. A well had been drilled, so the water problem was alleviated.

There were no fences and all the cattle and horses in the area went into the bush together. When Gwen was five, she would go on a pony to round up the horses when they were needed. She would bring thirty home and then their own would be separated. The cows were rounded up on foot and it was important to know the sound of your own bell.

The trees were pulled down with horses and the land grubbed and worked with horses. Each year more land was cleared and there was more equipment to make things a little easier. Hazel can remember Wally driving the tractor and her walking behind the breaking plow to clean out the many roots and lumps of dirt. Even after the land was broken, there were many rocks to be picked.

For the first year Gwen walked two and one-half miles to Springhill School. In 1943 Sandholm School was built and then the walk was only half a mile.

The land was fenced, but the herd of cattle was

reduced to five because that was how many cattle the land could pasture. With the milk from these five cows, Hazel began delivering bottled milk in 1950 with a horse and buggy. Campers and people living around Mulhurst remember Hazel as being their milk lady. In summer months there were over one hundred quarts a day to be delivered and in winter, it was less. She received 15¢ a quart Hazel did this for two years with the horse and buggy and then she had a car to drive. She delivered milk until July, 1963.

Bud had not been well during many of these years and passed away in December 1964.

Gwen is married to Warren Stout. They have five children and live in High Prairie.

Miriam is married to Ray Huber. They live in Edmonton and have four children.



Walter "Bud" and Hazel Scott's children. L. to R.: Gwen Scott, Wally Scott, Miriam Scott, Delbert Scott, Jimmy Massner. Mary Elaine and Bill Macaulay.

Walter is married to Vanda Tyess. They have three children and live close to Millet.

Delbert is married to Donna Sharret. They have four children and reside in Sherwood Park.

Gloria is married to Leroy Dahl. They have two boys and are in Edmonton.

In 1965 Hazel took over management of the Snack Bar in Thorsby. In 1972 she married John Pasula who by that time was helping her to run the business. In 1974 she sold the Snack Bar and also the farm at Mulhurst. She and John presently live on their farm close to Thorsby.

GUS AND FLORENCE SONTAG

by Florence Sontag

Gus and I were married April 4, 1945.

I was the former Florence Halladay, born and raised on my parents' farm (Conrad and Frances Halladay) 7½ miles south of Thorsby. Gus was born in the Calmar district and spent his youth in the Morrowdale district where his parents (Philip and Lydia Sontag) bought a farm and made their home.

In the fall of 1945 we bought the farm, we are living on today, which was the original homestead of



Conrad Halladay children: Florence, Ellen, Mo, Richard and Si, 1928.

my aunt and her husband, Merle and Eleanor Smith. We built a small two-room house, a chicken barn, and dug a well about 14 feet deep, in the summer of 1947. The lumber for the buildings was made from logs which Gus cut and hauled to local mills and had sawed into lumber.

We moved onto our farm in Oct. 1947. Our first child was born Feb. 13, 1948: a boy, named Phillip Conrad, after his two grandfathers. Our second son, Donald Wayne, was born July 29, 1951.

There was no graded road when we moved here, only a trail. In a slough north of us Gus got stuck with a team of horses and a high-wheeled wagon, when he was hauling some sand to make the basement of our first house. He had to unload the sand and persuade the horses to pull the wagon out, then salvage what sand he could and load it up again. We got our mail a ½ mile from home in a mail box on R.R. #2, Thorsby, until 3 years ago, when R.R. #1, Thorsby was extended and goes past our gate.

In the early years Gus worked at plastering and stuccoing and also as a carpenter in summer, taking off time to put in the crop in the spring and to harvest it in the fall. The money went mostly to clear land since the farm was a bush farm when we bought it. We were fortunate enough to get Calgary Power in Mar. 1954. In the fall of 1954 we bought our first T.V., it was the first T.V. in the community. It was fortunate Gus had been out working that summer because our crop was frozen. We harvested 17 loads of frozen green feed. We cleared the last land on the farm in 1961 and built a new house in 1963. The only help we hired was an



Florence and Gus Sontag, November 1960. L. to R.: Phillip 13, and Donald 10.

electrician for 1 day. Gus was the carpenter and our son, Phillip was 16 so was able to help quite a bit; also 3 or 4 neighbors helped since Gus exchanged work with them.

We are still farming but hope in a year or two to be able to retire. Our oldest son, Phillip, is a journeyman plumber and works on construction jobs in central and northern Alberta. He married Margaret Dunsmore from Calgary in 1972 and they have set up a double-wide trailer on our farm just west of our yard. They have 2 children, Arlene is 4 years old and Lenord is 2 months old. Our second son, Don is an automotive mechanic. He married Debora Hedberg from Jasper in 1976, and they live and work in Edmonton.

HISTORY OF VASA PARK 1946-1978

by Evelyn Brown Modin

In December 1946 Skandia Lodge bought 15 acres of lake shore property from Mr. W. Perley for \$600.00. In 1974 the same property was assessed for \$24,000.00.

In August of 1947 a road was opened from the main road into Vasa Park (now named) which became known as Avenue A, but in 1951 was taken over as a County road. Mr. Perley gave back \$200.00 of the original cost to help the Lodge to build the road. The first Land Committee: President Albin Samuelson, Eric Pierre, Mr. and Mrs. Folke Johnson, Mary Pearson, Herb Hokanson and Ed Bergquist. The same year leases were made out good for 99 years providing the lessee obeys all rules and regulations that are set down from time to time.

The land was surveyed in 1948 and members of the lodge began taking out leases and preparing to build. The first lumber was purchased from Sigy Malander. Lumber was brought by sleigh and horses to Julius Hober's at Sandholm and then hauled in to Vasa Park by a team of horses or by boat if necessary. Edsel Wickstrom helped haul lumber too. Many food boxes were carried in here from the Thorsby road and many a car was pushed in and out. By fall a club house was

built where everyone laid their weary bones down to rest, where mice ran over them during the night and woodpeckers woke them early in the morning to make sure they got a good days work.

In 1949 they decided a name should be found for the property. A prize of \$2.00 was given to the person who submitted the name that was chosen. Eric Engvall won the \$2.00 for the name of Vasa Park.

In 1949 the club held their first picnic. In 1951 "Children's Camp" was held where the children learned a little of their ancestral language, Swedish. Alma Samuelson, known as "Tant Alma" by the children, was leader. Thirty children attended, some from Edmonton, Buford and Falun. Later as many as 70 attended Avenue A.

To get water in those days you either hopped into a boat and rowed out a ways and filled your pail or if the water was nice and clear near shore, you just walked out on your pier and dipped your pail in. The old timers always thought the coffee was good from lake water.



Holiday Costumes at Vasa Park, 1967.

At one time the men tried digging a well by hand near the shore hoping the water would seep through the sand but it didn't work. In 1951 they had Axel Sandstrom drill a well at a cost of \$170.87.

The first cabin was built by Victor Bostrom in 1949. He put his lumber in a boat at Sandholm and rowed it here. Other cabins soon followed. When they put in the footings for Gus Johnson's cabin, the men rowed a boat over to Sandholm, filled quite a few pails with sand and then rowed back, being careful to keep close to shore in case the boat sank from the weight. Then they mixed the sand and cement and put it in the water which was in the holes they had dug, mixed it all together and let it set.



Main Clubhouse at Vasa Park.



Children's Camp Week, 1961, original building.

The lodge held their first meeting here on July 3, 1954.

In 1957 the Ladies Aid of the club donated money to help build a second road inside the Park, and also bought flags to put up on the flag pole donated by Bud Holmgren. In 1963 the members decided to go all out and wire the club house. Tom Pearson did the wiring and the job cost \$75.00.

We started the tennis court in 1963. This took 5 years to complete. Dinners and dances were put on to raise the money. In 1964 a new club house was built. The Park was incorporated into the Village of Golden Days in April 1965, and a pay phone was put on our property.

In July 1966 the first Klondike dance was put on by Emma and Harold Kragg. Pancakes were enjoyed by all at midnight. It was a real sticky affair. Street lights were installed in 1967.

The Scandinavian Center held a picnic in July of 1968. Rita Pearson was our queen candidate. In July of

1972 the patients from St. Joseph's Hospital started coming out to Vasa, some just for the day, others for two or three days. They have been coming here 2 or 3 times every summer. It is a real treat for them.

Members were feeling kind of squeezed on the dance floor so in June 1974 they built on to the club house. It was dedicated to the Pioneers. A gas line went through the same year.

There are four rows of cabins to date. The work is shared by all. A tennis tournament is held once a year for lodge members, and there is baseball, cross country skiing, fishing and skating when the ice is smooth.

In June a Mid-summer Day Celebration is held with many dancing around the May pole in costume or otherwise. Willard and Evelyn Modin have been full-time residents since December 1974.

Ivy and Andy Ogren and Don and Evelyn Johnson have since taken up permanent residence except for the winters which they spend in warmer climates. The Park is popular in all seasons and well patronized.

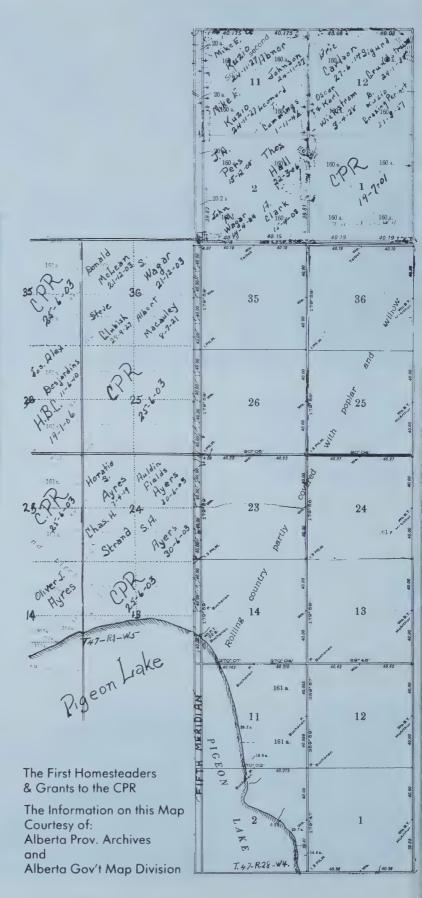


July 1975, patients from St. Joe's having lunch at Vasa Park.

Springbill (Mulburst)



Springhill School.





Spring Hill School 1911 with teacher Miss Beulah Schnore. L. to R.: Verlie Knight, Ethel Morrison, Annie Knight, Russel Morrison, Margaret Morrison, Russel Wagar, Vergil Ayers, Percy Rowley, 2 unknown and Lester Ayers.



Joeina M. Ewe a teacher at Springhill in 1918. Later married S. Wagar.

Leroy Treleven a teacher at Springhill 1930-31.

SPRING HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT #1451

by Verlie Macaulay

Spring Hill S.D. was organized in 1906 by Frank Cummins, Albert Knight and Aulden Ayers. The school was built by Fred Green. Jim Dotterer was Secretary-Treasurer for years.

One of his duties was to go from homesteader to homesteader to collect the taxes. He then took it to the teacher whose salary was almost always overdue. In early years school was held for a few months - only in summer. Later it was held through the winter. In very cold weather the pupils had to sit around the box stove to keep warm. They had to thaw out their lunches as everything froze closer to the walls.

After the district was taken over by Wetaskiwin county, the school and land were sold to John Komovis who lived there with his wife and son. After a few years the building burned down and the Komovises moved to Wetaskiwin. Later the land was sold to the Skip McDonalds who still live there in a modern home.

The first teacher was a Mr. Huggard, the second teacher was Miss Emma Robinson (about 1908), and others were Buelah Schnar, Elfreda Scott, Alva Metcalf, Mr. Chicano, Alice Treleaven, Joeina Ewe, Miss Black, Marion Orrock, Reta Sterling, Ella McLean, Mr. Riley, Miss Tofte, Arlene Walker, Margaret (Roop) Mulligan, Miss Kennedy, Mrs. Dixon, Miss Gimble, Miss Stone, Jean (Spencer)

Clark, Miss Mattson, Helen (Frost) Moonen (1927), Mr. O'Neile, Mr. Wybert, Bill Moore (1910), and maybe others.

Spring Hill was the only school I ever went to. Miss Emma Robinson was my first teacher.



Springhill High School Class of 1942. Verna Evenson, Pat McPhee, Evelyn Ayres, Mollie Dowler, Mary MacDonald. Paul Zateresky, Donovan (Dinty) Dowler, Stewart MacDonald.

THE STORY OF SPRINGHILL AND MULHURST COMMUNITY

by Verna Scott

George and Frank Sinex were in the east Mulhurst area before Mulligan's and Knights came. They had blazed a trail for 8 miles to get to their homestead (V. Holland). Joe Macaulay remembers that it was George who carried the mail on horseback from the "town" of Bonnie Glen to Fisher Home. By 1908, Mulligan was carrying mail from Bonnie Glen to a Mulhurst post office. (Later postmasters were Harvey Ayres and the McBain's.)



Near the Milligan homestead 1 mile east of the lake. Mr. Peters, Mr. G. Mulligan, Skyler Wagar and Olaf Hyden in democrat.

The Wager family came from Millet in 1902 to homestead.

J.W. Dotterer came from Ontario.

Geo. Mulligan in 1903 homesteaded, and Knight's the quarter directly north. In 1908, Bert Hall homesteaded.



Pioneer Albert (Bert) Allen and neighbor making roads in about 1908 -10 in the Canyon Creek area. H-m-m-, so that was the way roads were built in those days. Unbelievable? Nope, picture proves it.

In a poem "Sign of the Dove", composed by Dr. R.W. Auld, reference is made to Knight, Meaver, Mulligan, Ouimette, Esca Peters, Quick and Rowley (mill), and the "Green schoolhouse where drafts are so bad". Was either Springhill or Fisherton school green? Or is this because Springhill,# 1451, was built by Fred Green in 1906, (named for the spring at the foot of the hill?) Fred was still building there in 1907 when his son Gordon was born.

Grandma Ayres always said: "The first baby born in the area was Charlie Knight, Oct. 4, 1908."

The first school board was Aulden Ayres, Albert Knight and Frank Cummins. Sec. treas. was Jim W. Dotterer, a faithful community worker. The school was redone in 1912 (the drafts?) Nancy Meaver went in 1913-'14 when a Miss McLean, taught from April until after Christmas.



1910, July 4 picnic of Bonnie Glen and Mulhurst district people.

There was a regulation that year that fishermen at Pigeon Lake had to live within 2 miles of the lake. In 1916, a Debating Society met once a month at the Kulm School for a whole year. Mr. Berdan's name is linked with this activity, also Rudolf Helgren, Harold Oslund and Mr. Watson (from north of Esca Peters). The finals were Glen Park against "S E T A".

MacDonald had the store in Mulhurst (later the old barnshaped cafe) in 1933-'34. The Mulhurst Fisherman's Co-Op was built in 1921-'22 by Tome Hillas and Judd Mulligan. Benny Ouimette became

the Commissioner of Oaths.

PIONEER DAYS

By Mrs. Albert Knight

One of the worst hazards the pioneers had to contend with was the prairie fires. I recall one fall not long after school was built. A fire came through from the south. Mr. Knight saw it coming, got on the pony and went to the school to warn the children and teacher. When he started back, the fire had crossed the trail (there were no roads then) and the teacher and children could not get through, so had to go through the swamp to the lake. They got to the lake and wandered up and down the lake until 11:00 that night, before we knew if they were alive or not. They were a tired, hungry and frightened bunch. Miss Emma Robinson was the teacher, now Mrs. R. Brickman of Viking.

When the smoke cleared away, in the morning, the school was still there due to the heroic work of Mr. A. Ayers and boys. Only the paint was blistered.

Some of the homesteaders lost their hay in the fire.

PIONEERING

By H.S. Ayers (May 20, 1948)

We arrived in Millet on Sept. 9, 1901. And settled on a farm 3 miles west and 1 mile south of Millet, where we lived for 4 years. From there we moved to a homestead which Dad had filed on in the Pigeon Lake District. As there was no Mulhurst at that time I will tell of our experience moving to Pigeon Lake my 2 older sisters, myself and 3 or 4 younger brothers. Dad and Mother had already preceded us. We left the farm at Millet early in the morning as it was a very long days' trip to Pigeon Lake. We had a wagon with a double box loaded with boxes, bedding and kids, and the old faithfuls Dan and Topsy pulling it. Dad had told us of a new road he had cut north from the homestead up the fifth meridian, that would be straight north from where the present Spring Hill School stands. Dad's homestead was the farm now owned by Mr. Graves across the road and north a ways from the school.

We were to come by way of Bonnie Glen, which was some 3 or 4 miles north and east of the present site. I had not been over that road before but it was easy enough to get to Bonnie Glen P.O. From there the road was not much more than a dim trail. But we tackled it anyway. We got to the fifth meridian but didn't find the road Dad had made. We went on by as far as Donald McLean's homestead, a bachelor. He sent us back, told us we had come too far. We again missed the road Dad had made so we went all the way back to Bonnie Glen P.O. and followed a road south from there which went down by the old McPhereson homestead. Next homestead south of the McPhereson place when we got opposite there we camped for the night. I think we had eaten all the lunch we had with us. But we built a big fire and kept it going all night. There was grass nearby in a slough for the horses. The next morning soon after it was daylight we hitched the horses to the wagon and proceeded on our journey. About 1½ miles further we came to the road that goes east from where Mulhurst now is. And I had been over it, so we were on our way rejoicing. We finally arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Knight and Mrs. Knight insisted we have breakfast. It was pretty hard for a bunch of hungry kids to refuse. I think we ate about all the eggs Mrs. Knight had. And probably much more thanks to the kindness of the neighbors in those days. Some of us have survived to tell about it.

STORY BY MRS. MARTHA WAGAR WRITTEN MAY, 1948

I landed in Millet April 5, 1905. Millet at that time was only a few homes, a blacksmith shop, 2 stores, one church, and small hotel and a box car for a station. Then came the trip to our homestead 22 miles west. The roads were only trails and oh so rough over logs and through sloughs and etc. We went into McLean's shack at his invitation and lived there until our house was built (from green balm) was it fun. There was great holes in it where there was no chinking and long limbs grew out from the green logs. And as our goods had not arrived from the east, we ate off the new chips from the logs and burned them after each meal. We burned brush piles and planted our garden in the ashes where they burned, and never had nicer spuds. We went to parties from house to house, and had real good clean fun. All the neighbors were real people — good hearted and all tried to be a help to a newcomer. I had never seen such high trees or heard the cry of a covote before in my life. Prairie chickens and partridge were plentiful, also white fish and jack fish could be had in quantities. Wild fruit in abundance so we combined business with pleasure and thro' it all are still here to tell this tale.



FIRE Casam Esta. (Donatedby Mrs Truth Holmgren) Lumbering. The pioneers of Mulhurst used to cut down spruce trees, and haul them across Piyeon lake to a saw mill The steam boat would hauf them across the lake in booms during the summer. If a boom broke some of the men would wade in the water and round up the logs again. The people who worked with the logs are lumberjacks, 16-y used can't books Mr. a.B. Rowley also owned two

boats. The names of the boats were the Myrtle and the Countess.

Many farmer hauled lumber to Millet during the Winter months Kenneth Striker age 12Gradefive.



"The First Steam Boat"

Sunday excursion on Pigeon Lake, Aug., 1911 aboard "The Countess", owned by Rowley Lumber Co. L. to R.: Lance Armstrong, next two unknown. Lydia and Alice Armstrong; Edna, Hilma, Christine, Emma and Victor Sjorlund; Lousie Olson, Millie Sjorlund, Chas Olson, Andrew Sjorlund, 2 men not known, Chas Strom holding Lillian, 3 men not known. Men in lower doorway are: "Captain" Rowley, Bert Converse, engineer, Simon Goddinas, fireman (Native Indian). The young people of Lone Ridge and Mulhurst hired Mr. Rowley to take them out in his steamboat on the lake for a couple of hours. Mr. Rowley usually used the boat to tow booms of logs from the north and west shores of the lake to his mills at Mulhurst where they were sawn into lumber. Photo by George Fink, pioneer photographer.

From Spring Hill School booklet "Our Early Settlers". Reprinted here courtesy of Mrs. George Ladd.

The pioneers of Mulhurst used to cut down spruce trees and haul them across Pigeon Lake to a saw mill.

The steam boat would haul them across the lake in booms during the summer. If a boom broke, some of the men would wade into the water and round up the logs again. The people who worked with the logs are lumberjacks. They used cant hooks.

Mr. A.B. Rowley also owned two boats. The names of the boats were the Myrtle and the Countess.

FARMING

By Betty Jean Macaulay, Age 11, Grade 5

When pioneers came to this district they cleared the land. They had to plow the land with a walking plow drawn by oxen or horses. The seeding was done by hand. They used a cradle and scythe to harvest. Three to four acres were harvested in a day.

The pioneers joined together sometimes to do things for one another. These gatherings were called "Bees". Some of these bees were quilting, harvesting, and building homes. Group activities were also needed for building homes, roads, and churches. Much of this work was donated.

STORY BY B.W. OUIMETTE

Arrived in Wetaskiwin May 11, 1900. Spring 1901 came west to what is known now as Patience. Mr. A. Dickens was the first postmaster at Patience 18 miles west of Millet and 10 miles north east of Mulhurst. I was the first mail carrier to that post office. Carried the mail on horseback, sometime by horse and buggy. Two years later a post office was established 8 miles west at Bonnie Glen (R. Sheppard P.O.) and Mr. J. Smith was carrier. And 1908 a new post office on Mr. G. Mulligan's farm (S.E. 14-47-48) south and west of Bonnie Glen. Mr. W. Mulligan was carrier from Bonnie Glen.

Filed on my homestead June 30, 1904 at the age of 17 years. Worked in the logging camp and saw mill. Wages were large — from \$15.00 to \$30.00 a month with board. We had to get most of our groceries in when the ground was frozen. To go to Millet in the summer it took a week to make a round trip. Amusements mostly was dancing at the settlers and we had good times.

There was no roads only trails cut through the timber. Lumbering was at its peak here in 1908. Five sawmills within 4 miles of Mulhurst.

SCHOOL MEMORIES

By Verlie (Knight) Macaulay (June 18, 1948)

One of the things I remember best is about Esca

Peters. Most all the school kids called him "Uncle" as he was an uncle of Violet and Russel Wagar. He had a very nice small team called Lady and Dolly. Sometimes when he was riding by the school on one of his ponies he would come up to the window and peek in on us kids. Sometimes the teacher would scold us for looking at him and other times she couldn't help grinning too, at the awful faces he would make.

Sometimes when the ice was good for skating on Pigeon Lake, he would drive out on the ice with his jumper, and us kids would hang on to the back of it, sometimes in long lines, one person behind the other. We would have our skates on and he would yell at his horses and away over the ice we would fly. I remember one time, I was hanging on to the sleigh with a long line of kids behind me, we were really sailing along when "Uncle" said "Whoa" and his horses stopped immediately. I hit the back of the sleigh with my mouth and it was only minutes till my face was so swelled I could hardly talk. We really had a good time though and it seems to me we had good skating nearly every fall.

Many a good time we had with big bonfires on the shore. I guess we put a lot of grey hairs in our parents' heads from wondering if the ice was safe and if we would go out too far. However I don't think there has ever been a serious accident on the lake.

MR. AND MRS. GRAVES AND FAMILY

By Mrs. H.L. Graves

Came to Canada in 1914 came to Millet and to Mulhurst next day. There were no houses to get so we camped out in the midst of the large trees in the open. The next day Mr. Graves went to the sawmill which was where the Oimette hall is now and bought some lumber and Mr. Henry Meaver helped to build us a shack to live in till we built the bungalow. It was quite a difference coming from the city of Denver and camping out in the woods there was not many people here and it seemed odd and we are still camping.

STORY BY K.O. HYDEN

I worked in A.B. Rowley's mill, planing, pushing the lumber car, and dry piling. In the winter I scaled logs, kept time and sold supplies to the men in the logging camp.

In 1903 I filed on my homestead the N.W. ½ 12-47-28-W4 where I have lived ever since — except for the time I was working in the mill or on road construction.

The Countess was the first steam boat to drag log booms from Mission Beach to Rowley's Mill which was just south of the Ouimette Hall. I was kind of responsible for the boat and had to see that the others worked. Bert Convers was the engineer at that time and I was the pilot. The crew had their breakfast at the boarding house near the mill. Lunches were taken for

noon.

The men never knew how many hours they would be out. It depended on the wind. A head wind would bring the boat and boom to a standstill, sometimes for several hours.

Logs were piled on the ice in winter and booms were filled in the summer. These were then towed to the mill where they were made into lumber.

LONG AGO AND NOT FORGOTTEN

By Mrs. Sarah Meaver (1949)

I was born in Edmonton in 1872 and came to Pigeon Lake in 1879. There were not many settlers living around there at that time. Just Indians and Stonys. John McDougal lived by the lake which is now called Mission Beach. There also was a church on top of the hill, there Hudson Bay bought fish at the place which is now called Fisher Home in a log building. The Hudson Bay hauled the fish by dog team, to the Hudson Bay post in Edmonton. There were no roads here at that time, just wagon trails. We took up a homestead after I was married. We built a log house for our home as lumber was hard to get then. I also helped my husband to brush the land so we could have a garden spot and put in some grain. I also fished for many years. There was lots of meat to be got at that time. My husband could go out and in 3 hours be back with a moose or a deer. When I wanted Partridge for dinner or supper I would just take the .22 and shoot them down out of the trees. After a few years we had what you could call a road. First car we had was a Model T and we were going to a dance in Millet and I sat with the car door open ready to jump out if it did not go straight down the road. Cause I was always used to a team and wagon. Well some of the dear old timers have passed on but in good faith some of us are still remaining.

EARLY DAYS

By Violet (Wagar) McPherson

My parents first came to Millet in 1902. I remember first we came out to our homestead it rained all the time, water, and mud everywhere. My brother and I were covered up with blankets and canvas to keep us dry on the way out from town with a load of furniture.

We had to horse back most all over. My Mother made butter and put it in to two water pails and put one pail on each side the saddle and took it over to Rowley Town to sell at Rowley's store.

There was a great many dances then every one had great times. They were held in homes all over.

My Dad hauled the first rocks for the Spring Hill School foundation. We youngsters went horse back to school. The bush was so thick Mother was afraid we would get lost so she took shiny tin cans and put them up on trees all along the way and we followed those.

My Grandfather came up one spring from the States and of course on their way out got the horses down in a mud hole, had quite a time getting out. He said, "This is my last trip up here." and it was.

We homesteaded here in 1904. When Dad made his first trip over the railroad the ties were under water almost all the way from Calgary to Millet.

You wouldn't know the old place now.

STORY BY MRS. ASA CLARK

Sept. 25, 1951

My father, Norman Morrison and Joe Kinchella filed on their homesteads in the Bonnie Glen District in the autumn of 1902. Early the next spring they started to build our homes. They worked together and cut logs for a house for each family, and with the help of Mr. Sears and his team of oxen had our home ready before winter. My first memory of our trip to the new home was arriving in Millet and being met by Hans Froning who had made the trip in for my mother and us children who were all small then. It was on the 3rd of Dec., 1903 that we started out to our new home 20 miles west of Millet. It was a cold stormy day and as we were ready to leave Mrs. John West came out of her store in Millet with a warm blanket to put over us smaller children in the sleigh. Our nearest neighbors were the Wrens, Kinchellas, Fronings, and Mr. Sears. My earliest recollection of Pigeon Lake was several years later when the Kinchella family and I made a trip to visit the Mulligan family. We came with a team of oxen and the roads were very muddy. I spent many happy days of my childhood at Pigeon Lake and still come back when ever possible to visit old friends.

SHORT DIARY BY F.B. GREEN OF THE PROGRESS OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA 1902 - 1952

I left Walkata, Oklahoma, USA on the first day of April 1902 and arrived in Wetaskiwin on the sixth day of April 1902. At that time it was the N.W.T. On the 14th of May, 1902 I started out with a friend of mine to look for a homestead. I decided to locate on the N.E. 32-47-27-W4 on the bank of Wizard Lake where I am still residing.

In 1905 it was made the province of Alberta.

The Spring of 1906 I took a contract to build the Pipestone School, in the fall of the same year I built the Spring Hill School.

In the spring of 1909 we formed a committee and organized the Canyon Creek School. I was appointed chairman of the board which I served for 35 years.

In 1918 our local improvement district was formed into a municipality known as the Wetaskiwin Bigstone Municipality 459. I was nominated to run for councillor and was elected the position I held for 9 years.

CLAUDE B. WAGAR FAMILY

by Gloria (Wagar) Klatt

Claude Wagar was born at Oak Flats, Ont. in 1908, the second son of John and Martha Wagar. He spent his childhood both in Ontario and Alberta. Later on during the depression he rode the rods looking for jobs wherever they could be found in this province. Most of the jobs were on farms during spring work and harvesting and the men were paid about \$1.50 per day. On Nov. 19, 1940 Claude married Rose Shymansky of the Buford District and they continued to live here and there in the Mulhurst area until a few years later when they set up residence with his parents on the homestead (3½ miles north of Mulhurst).

Eventually, they took over the farm duties and as the years came and went, reared 6 children, namely: Gloria (1941) (Mrs. Wm. Klatt) — lives on the homestead 3 children; Marvin (1943) (married Georgina Kulhovinia) and lives on the former Weed Creek school site — 2 children; Angeline (1947) (Mrs. Walter Pydde) R.2 Millet — 2 children; Wayne (1949) (married Donna Bensmiller) lives in Wetaskiwin — 1 daughter; Phyllis (1950) (Mrs. George Yawney) lives in Thorsby — 2 children; Roger (1957) (single) lives and works in Wetaskiwin.

Claude and Rose farmed until the summer of 1969 when they semi-retired and moved to Wetaskiwin. They picked up a few part-time jobs to break the monotony of city life. They've retired now though, and enjoy coming out to the farm whenever they can. Editor's Note:

Claude Wagar passed away on October 29, 1978.



Claude B. Wagar family, 1975. L. to R.: Angeline (Pydde), Marvin, Wayne, Gloria (Klatt), Roger, Phyllis (Yawney) with Claude and Rose in the foreground.

THE JOHN WAGAR STORY

by Gloria Wagar Klatt

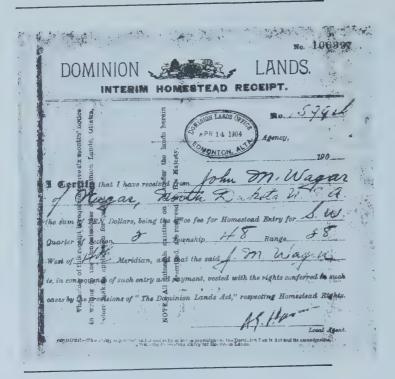
John Marshall Wagar was born in 1876 at Wagarville, Ontario and grew up there working at various occupations, mainly in the logging industry. In 1902 John (or Jack as he was more commonly known) bought a homestead at Minot, North Dakota and in 1903 he was united in marriage to Martha Reynolds (a school teacher) born in 1879 at Oak Flats, Ontario.



Double Wedding: John and Martha Wagar, Will and Lydia Wagar. About 1905.

John then sold his land in North Dakota and he and a group of others travelled to the Pigeon Lake area and took up homesteads there in 1904. The group included Sandy Wagar, Schyler Wagar, Don McLean and others. Meanwhile Martha stayed at her home in Oak Flats 'til 1904, when she came by train to Millet. They stayed at Don McLean's while their log home was being built on the homestead (SW 2-48-28-W4) 3½ miles north of Mulhurst. As their furniture had not arrived from the East, they often ate using big chips of wood for plates. During those first few years the family had only oxen for transport, and a trip to Millet and back took a week. It was 5-6 yrs. before they were able to get horses of their own. There was also a store at Bonnie Glen but the staple food was bought at Millet in 3 or 4 month intervals. Later, in Rowley Town (Mulhurst) was incorporated but with just trails and lots of swamp land between, it was still hard to get there. Travelling was much easier in the winter.

Grandad was travelling about getting work wherever he could, mainly in the lumber camps, working with a peavey or canthook in the sawmills. During the times when he was home he started clearing the land. His first crop was 3 acres of oats which he had seeded by hand. There surely must have been a lot of difficult trials to overcome that we cannot begin to understand. I can remember Grannie telling how she would never forget the first time she heard coyotes; thinking it was a woman crying in the night, until Grandad informed her otherwise.



Grannie had an organ shipped from Ontario and since house dances were a principal form of entertainment, it really came in handy. Sandy Wagar was a great caller for the square dances. Church meetings were also held in their home on occasion. Their first radio came around 1938 or 1939 and took 3 different batteries.

In 1906 their first child, Cyrenius, was born. Grannie went back to Ontario because of illness in the family. There Claude was born in 1908. Vera arrived in 1910 and Clifford in 1913 here at the homestead.

However, as it became necessary for the children to attend school and there was no school close at hand, the family moved to a farm near Millet and later into Millet. Grandad ran a horse-drawn dray while there. In 1916 Grannie's father became very ill and she and the children travelled back to Ontario and while there the youngest child, Clifford died of croup. She and the other 3 children came back here in 1924 and the family lived on a farm 12 miles west of Millet. Evidently, while the family had been moving around, they had rented the homestead to Asa Clark and during this time their log home burned down in a bush fire. So in the spring of 1928 the house that still stands here was built and they moved back to the homestead.

Vera married Charlie Meaver in 1933, was divorced from him, and later (1950's) married John Jensen. Claude married Rose Shymansky in 1940 and Cy married Myrel Moonen in 1941. Cy went overseas during World War II and Claude stayed on the farm with Grandad and Grannie. Grandad passed away Sept. 10, 1958 and Grannie on Dec. 26, 1968. Vera passed away June 4, 1965. Claude passed away Oct. 29, 1978.

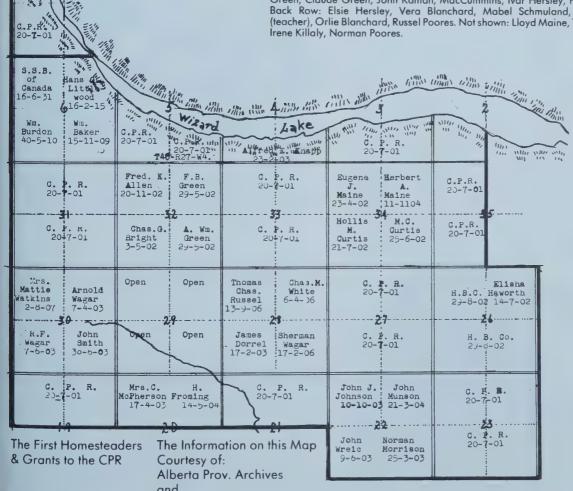
Canyon Creek

School Wistrict No. 1814

1910 - 1951



1935-36 Canyon Creek, Seated: Helen Blanchard, Dorothy Blanchard, Wilfred Poores. Second Row: Maude Poores, Johnny Schmuland, Harry Blanchard, Roy Green, Claude Green, John Kaman, MacCummins, Ivar Hersley, Fred Cummins. Back Row: Elsie Hersley, Vera Blanchard, Mabel Schmuland, Anna Moyer (teacher), Orlie Blanchard, Russel Poores. Not shown: Lloyd Maine, Tom Cummins, Irene Killaly, Norman Poores.



Alberta Gov't Map Division

After 1950 we have a Rural Route which brings our mail to our door, school bus picks up our children and takes them to a central school equal to any in the cities. A cream route is established to gather our cream and brings our groceries to the door.

We also have the Wizard Lake and Bonnie Glen oil fields have proven the best in Alberta this progress is for all the early settlers in our community, that came here on the start and took all the hardships of a new country so people could live with the most up to date improvements and still getting better.

CANYON CREEK SCHOOL NO. 1814 1935 — 36

By Anna Moyer Wickstrom

Canyon Creek School, built by Fred Green in 1910, was a white one-roomed structure with a chimney at the west end, and at the east end, facing the road, a bell-tower with a big bell, which when it rang, could be heard for miles. A lean-to had been added, with a door opening to the south.

Just inside the door was a stand with a pail, a dipper and a wash basin. The cast-iron box stove had pipes which extended the full length of the room to join the chimney on the west wall. On each side of the chimney was a blackboard. The teacher's desk stood on a platform at the front. Below were several rows of double desks. Much to my joy there was a piano.

The water pumped from the drilled well was clear and refreshing. There was a red barn for the use of pupils with horses.

The one-roomed teacherage was simply furnished. I was pleased with the cooking utensils in the kitchen cabinet.

The Friday before school opening, Mrs. Green had met me at the station in Thorsby. After a look around the town, we had climbed into a '29 Chev. and Stanley Green, our chauffeur drove us to Canyon Creek School, which was about 14 miles southeast of town.



1935—Teacherage at Canyon Creek School, Hazel Wilson with her violin.

My salary was to be \$700.00 per year. I had arranged to do the janitor work for the use of the teacherage. Fred Green was chairman of the board, Mrs. Fred Green was sec.-treas., son Bob and Tom Cummins were board members.

I was told that Andy Blomquist from Thorsby would deliver mail to the box in front of the teacherage every Tuesday and Saturday.

Hazel Wilson, a friend of mine from Leduc, arrived on Sunday morning. She had agreed to stay with me all year, except for the times when her sister Phyllis would trade places with her for a change. No sooner had Hazel finished unpacking, than we saw from the window, a team of horses pulling a hayrack, turn in at the gate. A sturdy woman stood holding the reins. She stopped, alighted, tied the horses, marched determinedly up to the door and rapped loudly. Somewhat apprehensively I opened the door and asked her to come in. Seeing that there were two of us, she asked, "Are you Miss Moyer?" When I replied that I was, she said grimly, "Would you mind stepping around to the back of the house? I want to talk to you.' As we walked to the back, I though to mayself, "What could I possibly have done? I haven't even started teaching." My heart was beating faster than usual.



Grades I-IX 1947 — Canyon Creek S.D. Back Row, L. to R.: John Staroba, Yvonne Moonen, Mary Kapusta, Joyce Simpkins and Robert Klatt. Third Row: Ron Harden, Phyllis Simpkins, Willie Klatt, Steve Grecko, Mary Kaman, Roy Killaly. Second Row: Marjorie Green, Heidi Staroba, Susie Grecko. Front Row: Ernest Wickstrom. Not Shown: Helen Grecko, Anne Gecko and Jack Thomas. (Joyce Simpkins was a grade XI correspondence student.)

I felt relieved, however, when she told me the nature of her visit. He oldest boy, she said, "is a bad one, and hard to handle." She informed me that I would "Have to give him discipline". When I assured her that I would do my best, she solemnly departed. I was pleased to find later, that the boy was scarcely any problem.

On Monday morning, the pupils straggled in. There were 21 in all, in grades I-VII. The Blanchard children had 5 miles to walk, but when the weather was bad, someone called for them with the team. The children seemed eager to begin work after the long holiday.

On Friday evening, the Green boys, Gordon, Stanley, Conrad and John, came to take us to Pierce's Store where they bought us chocolate bars. This store



L. to R.: Canyon Creek S.D. Front Row: Dorothy Blanchard, Norman Poores, Wilfred Poores Second Row: Helen Blanchard, Lloyd Maine, Fred Cummins, Claude Green, Ivar Hersley, Orlie Blanchard, Roy Green, Maude Poores. Back Row: Vera Blanchard, Elsie Hersley, Irene Killaly, Russel Poores, Harry Blanchard. Not Shown: Mable and Johnny Schmuland, Tom Cummins, John Kaman and Mac Cummins.

consisted of a few shelves of merchandise in the house on their farm. Ralph and Stella Pierce used the wool from their sheep for spinning and knitting. Instead of a spinning wheel, they used some sort of contraption fitted to the wheel of their sewing machine. They had no trouble selling all the mitts and socks they could knit.

The boys took us other places as well. Sometimes we went on foot, on horseback, with the team, in their dad's '29 Chev., or with Gordon's Nash, a topless jalopy with four wheels, and engine but no seats. We hung onto whatever solid piece of iron the vechicle had to offer.

One Sunday in the fall, four of us decided to do some fishing at Wizard Lake. We walked down to Roland Skog's to borrow his boat. Roland was a mink farmer who lived by himself on the south shore of the lake. He had come from Sweden, bought land, built a small house, all his own furniture, his mink cages and his boat. He lent us his boat but we didn't catch any fish that day.

During the winter the schoolboard provided materials for hot lunches. Potatoes were baked and cocoa prepared at the teacherage. An apple a day was given each child. Winter brought stovepipe problems. Sometimes they smoked so furiously that the school had to be dismissed while they were cleaned.

Young people got together for dances, coasting and skating on a rink we'd cleared on Wizard Lake. Besides the Green boys and their sister Cema, there were Pearl and Laurel Harden, George Killaly, Louis Blize, Pete and Joe Gill, Cy and Claude Wagar and others from neighboring districts. There was always a shortage of girls.

For a few days each spring, fish swam from Wizard Lake, up Sucker Creek to spawn. People from the district would gather there to fish. At the edge of the creek bank we sprawled out on our stomachs, and

grabbed the fish in our hands as they swam up the creek. We had brought a frying pan, and were soon enjoying the novelty of eating fresh fish outdoors.

One afternoon, my class and I hiked about a mile to visit a coal mine on the south shore of Wizard Lake, east of Fred Green's. Pete and Joe Gill, two brothers from Poland, had started the mine in May of 1935. After much hard work, the mine was now in operation. They took us through the mine in little carts on rails, and explained what was going on.

In June, the good times had to come to an end. There were exams to compose and correct, report cards to prepare, and a picnic to plan. It had been a jolly good year! It had been profitable as well. I had gained 30 lbs.

1946-47

Canyon Creek School was without a teacher when Miss Lobb resigned in 1946. I was asked to teach.

The 11 yrs. had brought many changes. The big bell in the tower was no longer in use. Single desks had replaced most of the double. There were more books in the library and I could afford more teacher's guides of my own. The local schoolboard had been abolished, and headquarters was now in Wetaskiwin with Mr. Yule as inspector. The Enterprise System of Education, in its experimental stage when I'd been there before, had been in operation now for 10 yrs. My salary was \$100.00 more than before. The teacherage had been partitioned into 3 rooms, but there was no longer mail service past the school.

As before, I was to do the janitor work for the use of the cottage. Our son, who was under school age was given special permission to attend. My husband came for us every Friday evening.

Bonnie Glen School had not been able to hire a teacher that year and as they just had a supervisor, 8 of their students came to Canyon Creek.

The Gill coal mine, which had been moved to a new location 1½ miles east of the first one, was doing a flourishing business. Ralph and Stella Pierce had moved to the mine, where Ralph operated his small store, and Stella cooked and served meals to some of the miners and customers. They were both still in the spinning and knitting business as well. Joe Gill was now married to Stella Kopake and they had a family.

Cema, Gordon, and Conrad Green, and Irene Killaly had married and moved away. Pearl Harden, John Green, George Killaly, Steve Killaly and Harry Blanchard had married and had homes in the district. The Maine, Blanchard and Poores families had moved away and the Ernest Klatt, Les Simpkins and Cy Wager families had moved in. Roland Skog who had left to join the armed forces was reported to be living in the far north. Stanley Green was working in Wetaskiwin.

After 2 months of schoolwork we all felt that we deserved a Hallowe'en party. We indulged in the usual "Tomfoolery", and some of the students went home to plan further escapades. It was rumored that one young prankster got the surprise of his life when he was captured, hauled in by the man of the house, and

given a dose of castor oil.

It wasn't long before we were practicing for the inevitable Christmas Concert. The day before the event, I sent some of the boys to find a tree. They returned in a surprisingly short time with a tree of unbelievable perfection. I had quite a shock when I found out later that they had taken it from the front yard of a farm near the school! Luckily, no-one lived on the premises at the time, and I don't know if the owner ever found out.

Another highlight of the year was the box social, held before Easter to raise money for sports equipment. The women prepared lunches which they placed in boxes decorated with crepe paper. Some of them were works of art. Merle Wagar and Joyce Simpkins took turns at the piano to supply us with dance music. At lunch time the boxes were auctioned. The box of one of our local beauties sold for over \$6.00, which was considered a lot of money then.

We all attended the Track Meet held at Mulhurst on the old ball diamond beside Wiley's Store. Willie Klatt remembers that our softball team came out on top.

For the 4 yrs. that I taught after I was married, my husband struggled with the task of baby-sitting, farming, and housekeeping. Everything went well until he tried making bread buns. When I sampled one the next day, I wondered where he'd gone wrong. A step-by-step interrogation revealed that immediately after he'd formed the dough into balls, he'd popped them into the oven to bake. This mistake was not as costly as the one he made when he "popped" the discs of our hand-operated separator into the hot oven to speed the drying process, and then forgot about them.

It was June again and time for exams and the picnic. Three grade 9 students wrote the departmental exams and were later to learn that they had passed. It had been a satisfying year. I would like to have gone back for another term, but we were expecting our second child.

1978

There is little left of Canyon Creek District as I had known it. Pearl and John Green, Harry Blanchard, John Kaman, and Laurel Harden are the only old-timers. The school buildings were hauled away and the mine shut down. Summer people have bought acreages and are building houses in Wizard Heights subdivision, along the lake, north of the old school site. Despite the mosquitos, the Nudists have a camp on land they have purchased.

THE CANYON CREEK COAL MINE by Stella Gill

The first coal mine in the Conjuring or Wizard Lake district was the Nap Coal Mine begun in 1904.

Joe and Pete Gill came out to the lake in May of 1935 to look for coal, as they intended to open a coal

mine. With them was their former boss Dan Colonel who had a coal mine in Edberg. It was a wet summer and they were wet every day when they came to their sleeping quarters (Fred Green's hayloft). They discovered coal in the lake bank and then had to brush and grub the trees and stumps for a road to the coal. It took long hours of hard work to do this and they had extra help for it. Joe says they spent the summer building the road with spades and shovels.

They started mining coal and then built themselves a shack to live in near the mine. It was a very cold winter and the men used to eat frozen bread and meat as they didn't have time to build a fire to thaw out the food. Their hours were so long in the mine that the fire was out long before they came back to the shack.

As they went farther into the mine they bought rails and cars to push the coal out of the mine. Outside there was a screen to shovel the coal out of each car, so that the slack would be separated from the coal. This coal would then be shovelled off the ground into the wagons.



Joe Gill and horse "Babe" pulling coal cars at Canyon Creek mine. 1945.

The coal was all dug by pick, as they didn't use blasting powder. It was a very slow job and some of the customers waited as long as two days to get one car of coal. They stayed with the miners in their little shack, so it was very crowded at times. Joe says he'd walk in and see men sleeping crossways on the bed and the floor, so there was no room for him to sleep.

Later on, Joe and Pete built themselves a house on the hill near the main road and they used to walk the half mile or so to the mine. They'd get up at 2 A.M. to make breakfast and pack lunch and by 3 A.M. they'd be off to work. After supper they'd go back to work until 10 or 11 P.M.

The water started to come into the mine from the bottom, as the coal seam was going downward, so that they were lower than the lake level. They decided to prospect east of this place to see if there was coal there.

They found there was, so in the spring of 1938 they moved to the new location. Again they built the road by hand, but this time it turned out better, as the hill to the lake wasn't as steep or the curves as sharp.

While they were at the first location, Mrs. R. Pierce used to bake bread for them. They also bought milk and butter from her. She used to cook stew for the customers



Coal mine entrance at Canyon Creek 1942.

They tore the house and most of the shacks down, to be moved to the new location. All the lumber and equipment was moved by horses and wagon. I was cooking for them while the road was built. The house was rebuilt and a tipple was built later on. The coal was still dug with picks.

A few years later a horse was brought from the Stoney Creek Colliers at Camrose. This horse was trained for pulling cars of coal out of the mine. She could pull five cars of coal at a time, and sometimes more, each car having a ½ ton of coal on it.

They also started to blast the coal loose with stumping powder. The coal was dumped down a screened coal chute and loaded at one time. The customer now didn't have to wait so long for his coal.



Tipple at Canyon Creek coal mine, 1942.

They also put in a scale to weigh the coal. In the first mine it had been sold by the car instead of by the ton.

The coal mine was divided into rooms so that each man had a place of his own in which to work. Also, every man had a ten round check with numbers on it to identify his car of coal as it went out. In that way the fellow who collected the checks, counted them and knew the amount of coal each man had produced. The miners were paid by the cars of coal, not by the ton or by the hour or the day.

The coal mine was in 1,000 ft. south, and about 2,000 ft. southeast from the entrance. The coal seam had over five feet of coal. It has been idle since March 31, 1953 when my husband decided to quit mining coal.

HISTORY OF THE AULDEN FIELD AYERS

by Horatio S. Ayers

A little history of the Aulden F. Ayers family. My Dad and Mother arrived in Millet, Alberta on Sept. 9, 1901 with 7 children. They moved to a farm 3 miles west and 1 south of Millet. Dad homesteaded the NE 24-47-1-W5 in 1903. He moved the family from the farm to the homestead in 1905.



Aulden Ayers family in 1898. L. to R.: Aulden Field, Julia Lorretta, Margaret, Amy Fay, Horatio S. Owen, George and Marion Ayers.

There were 3 more children born as time went on. The family all resided at home until 1913 when Mother passed away. I was 8 years old when we arrived in Alberta. I was the oldest boy and had 2 sisters older than me.

I am now 85 and have lived around the Millet, Mulhurst and Wetaskiwin area all of the time.

There were 6 of the brothers in the Canadian Armed Services at one time or another, myself twice.

They have all passed on except my youngest brother and youngest sister.

We managed to live pretty much as others at that time. There were lots of Prairie Chickens and Partridge, fish and other wild game.

I do not see so well anymore, but have many memories, some very pleasant ones. My uncle, Austin Ayers, homesteaded in the same section as Dad and I did. Eventually we knew all the old timers in the area.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN BUCKLEY

John Buckley is the grandson of Earl and Florence Erickson and great grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. L.O. Anderson of Glen Park. John lived with the Earl Ericksons when they operated the service station in Glen Park. He attended the Kulm School where his first grade teacher was Mrs. Ina Anderson.

He and his wife Karen Anna live on an acreage at Mulhurst and have one son Christopher John.

John is employed with the Texaco Bonnie Glen

Gas Plant. The picture is their wedding photo.



John and Karen Buckley, married June 11, 1976.

F.B. GREEN FAMILY HISTORY

submitted by Ivy Wiess (daughter)

Mr. Fred B. Green came with his bride Eva to Elsworth, Kansas U.S.A. from England. There were 3 sons and 1 daughter born to them while living in the States - Charlie, Archie, Florence and Edgar (Bob).

In April, 1902 they came to Bonnie Glen, Alberta where they settled on a homestead near Conjuring Lake. After moving to Alberta, Mr. and Mrs. Green had 3 more sons and a daughter - Bernard, Ivy, Gordon and Stanley. Mrs. Green died of cancer on June 17, 1913 and left besides her loving husband, 6 sons and 2 daughters.



Fred and Connie Green.



Charlie, Ivy and Stanley Green.

In 1915 Fred remarried. His second wife's name was Connie Littlewood. They had 2 sons and 2 daughters - Conrad, Cema, John and Ruth.

Archie passed away when a young man. Charlie remained a bachelor and died in 1960. Florence married and moved to B.C. and her present home is in Nelson, B.C. Bob married Inez Hinkey and they had 3 sons. LeRoy Edgar is married and lives at Mirror. They have 4 children. Claude Butler is

married and has 6 children. They live in Wetaskiwin. Their youngest son Orville remained single.

Bernard married Helen Callaway and they had 6 sons. He passed away in Oct. 1962. His children were Kenneth A., Keith L., Dwight W., Kermit (died in infancy), Kenzie C. and Wallace T.

Ivy married William Maine and they had 7 children. Lloyd the oldest, and his wife Elsie have 4 sons and 1 daughter. They live in the Buck Creek area. Delbert lives in Drayton Valley. Clayton and his wife Marie have 3 sons and 2 daughters and live in Drayton Valley.

Ida Maine, their oldest daughter, died on Oct. 29, 1950. Edna married Allan Ajas and lives at Williams Lake. They have 1 son and 3 daughters, Doris, the youngest daughter married John Servos. They have 2 sons and 2 daughters and live in Chilliwack, B.C. John Maine, the youngest son married, had one daughter and lives at Buck Creek.

Gordon Green married Millie Shymansky and they have 3 children, Allan, Eileen and Robert.

Stanley Green, the youngest son of Fred and Eva, lives in Camrose.

Conrad Green was married twice and had 9



Fred Green's Steam Engine and his daughter.

children. He died in October, 1974. Cema Green married Louis Blize and they now live in Breton. Ruth never married and now is in a nursing home in Edmonton. John, youngest son of Fred and Connie Green married Pearl Harden and they have 6 children.

William Maine, husband of Ivy, died in 1948. Fred B. Green died in 1961 and his wife Connie died in 1973. Bob Green died in 1974.

Ivy Maine remarried a man named Wiess, and now lives near Millet.

She has 22 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

THE JOHN GREEN FAMILY

by Pearl Green

John William Green was born Feb. 1, 1919 in the Canyon Creek district. His mother's name was Cema Constance Littlewood before she married Frederick Bernard Green.



John Green doing his stint as a cowboy.

In 1938 John married Pearl Marjorie Harden of the Thorsby district. Her mother's name was Elsie Isabel (Ensign) Harden and father's name was Earl Calvin Harden. Pearl was born Sept. 17, 1917 and moved to this district with her parents in 1924 from Whitla, Alberta which was 21 miles south-west of Medicine Hat.

John worked for many farmers of the Millet, Calmar and Thorsby districts. The names of some of them were Bruce Bell, Joe Yoctorowick, the Netch boys and many more. He worked for Pete and Joe Gill in the Wizard Lake coal mine. In the 1940's he worked at Blackfalds on Highway 2. He also worked for Les Bruce and Emil and Dave Steinke at the Thorsby Auction Market. John worked a total of 25 years for the Steinkes. Another employer was Les Manchak as John hauled cream and delivered from Calmar to Hoadley for Palm Dairies. John also drove truck for many years hauling cattle, etc.

He bought the R.D. Pierce place in 1946 for \$450.00. This is where they still live and farm. John likes to play the violin, guitar and also sing. Pearl is musical too and in the 30's they played for dances along with Jackson Breden. Pearl played the guitar or piano and some of their family have inherited the musical talent also, with Dwain and Donald playing guitars.

John and Pearl have six children, four boys and two girls. Marjorie, the eldest was born Oct. 23, 1939. Donald Earl was born Aug. 18, 1942. Dale Pearl was born Jan. 30, 1948 and the second son Dwain Elvin William was born March 6, 1950. Jim Lee was born March 10, 1951 and Gary Franklin Laurence was born Jan. 28, 1953.

Marjorie Orlie married James Richard Wright of Leduc district on Sept. 11, 1959 and they have six daughters, including a set of twins, Bonnie Lee, Wanetta Lynn, Sandra Lorraine, Kareye Lane and Sherry Louise (twins) and Janice Loreen. The Wrights live in Kavanagh, Alberta.

Donald Earl John Green married Susan Maurine Wilson of Drayton Valley on July 10, 1961. To them four sons were born, Timothy James, Kim William, Shawn Donald and Corey Lee. Their home is in Calgary.

Dale Pearl Green married Raymond William Dreger of the Thorsby district on Feb. 28, 1964. They have two sons and two daughters named, Judy Elizabeth, Darren Raymond, Randy William, and Holly Dale. The Dregers' home is in Warner, Alberta.

Dwain E.W. Green married Constance Jean Bosch of Oyen on Nov. 12, 1971 and they have three daughters, Tammy Jean, Tina Marie and Stacy Lynn. They live in Red Deer.

Jim Lee Green married Debra Ann Bara of Leduc district on Nov. 14, 1969 and they have two daughters, Darla Ann and Priscilla Lee Ann.

Gary Franklin Green married Viola Helen Hauser of Leduc on Aug. 3, 1974. They have a daughter, Ranne Katherine, and they live in Kavanagh. Another daughter Amanda Pearl was born to them on March 14, 1979.

John and Pearl have two great-grandchildren, as Marjorie's daughter Bonnie Lee married Raymond James Rowe on Nov. 27, 1976 and they have two children, Stephanie Lee and Brian James Rowe.

THE ALBERT KNIGHT FAMILY

by Verlie Macaulay

Albert Knight came from Oilsprings, Ontario in the spring of 1904. He filed on a homestead, NE 14-47-28 W4, and built a house.



The Albert Knight Family — 1920. Front: Albert (Dad), Alberta, Edith (Mom) Charles. Back: Verlie, Annie.

His wife Edith and two small daughters, Annie and Verlie, came from Ontario in July of that year, so another pioneer home was started. The nearest store, post office, etc., was at Millet. As there were no roads, just trails cut through the bush, sometimes in the rainy weather (and it seemed there was much more rain then) it would take a week to go to Millet and back. We had a small white team of cavuses so sometimes with a load on the wagon they would get stuck in the middle of a mud hole. The whole load would have to be carried, piece by piece, to dry land nearest home. Then came the task of taking the wagon apart and carrying it out of the mud, putting it back together again and loading up the groceries, etc. No wonder it took up to a week for a trip. However, it was a good life, clean air to breathe, and a lake close by for swimming, skating, and fishing.

In the winter the men folk would cut blocks of ice at the lake and haul them home to a building and pack sawdust around them, so all summer we had a good place to keep the cream, etc., and lots of ice for that good homemade ice cream.

Our nearest neighbors, the George Mulligans, who had come from Ontario (near us) the year before, were a great help and comfort in trying times. In 1906 Albert Knight, Aulden Ayers and Frank Cummins got together and organized a school district and had the school, Spring Hill #1451, built. The school was on a hill almost surrounded by springs. The school kids would carry water for the school from one of these springs. After many years a well was drilled and a pump house and barn were built. Many of the pupils came on horseback or drove one horse on a homemade sleigh (a jumper it was known as). We kids walked a mile across country.

The first teacher was a Mr. Huggard.

After a few years another daughter (Alberta) came to the Knight home and also a son Charles.

After a few years the Post Office and stores got closer. Mr. A.B. Rowley had a sawmill with a good store where the homesteaders were able to buy most things they needed. Many homesteaders worked in the mill or hauled lumber to Millet. In the winter, logs were cut at the north end of Pigeon Lake, and piled on the ice. In summer, they were hauled in large booms down to the mill by the steam boat "Countess". Later, the Mulhurst Post Office was established and kept by the Mulligans for years and years. When this is being written, August 1978, the Mulhurst P.O. is still here to serve the people who are not on the rural routes.

Albert and Edith retired to Mulhurst in the late '20's and son Charles and wife Betty took over the farm. Albert passed away in 1953 and Edith in 1952. Their daughter Alberta Knight Priestley predeceased them in 1924. Charles and Betty have retired in Mulhurst, Albert and Annie (Knight) Macaulay and Joe and Verlie (Knight) Macaulay have retired in Wetaskiwin.

Albert and Annie had three daughters; Ruth and her husband Ken Oslund had three girls and one boy;



Albert and Annie Macaulay on their 50th wedding anniversary. 1921.

Blanch married Johnnie McColeman and had two sons and one daugher, and Eleanor Wickstrom had three sons and one daughter. Eleanor passed away in 1978.

Alberta and Sam Priestley had one son Ralph. Verlie and Joe Mccaulay have one daughter Betty Jean who married Ken Killaly. Charles and Betty Knight have no children.

THE ANDREW McBAIN FAMILY

by William R. McBain

Andrew McBain was born in 1882 in Scotland and came to Canada in 1911. He worked on the building of the High Level Bridge and then on the Edmonton City Power Plant.

His wife Jean with Mary Jane (Mamie) and William R. (Bill) came to Edmonton in 1912.

Andrew, upon hearing of the death of his brother William in 1915, joined up and served overseas with the Canadian Expeditionary Force - 49th Battalion from 1915 to 1918. He was gassed at Vimy Ridge and wounded in his legs and back of head with shrapnel.

On returning to Canada in 1919 he moved his family to Irma, Alberta to farm under the Soldiers' Settlement Board. They left Irma in 1929 and came to Calmar, then to Conjuring Lake (now Wizard) in 1930. They moved to the Mulhurst district in 1931 and operated the Thistle Cafe at Mulhurst from 1936 until 1945. He was postmaster at Mulhurst from 1938 until 1951 when he died.

They had 6 children. Mary Jane (Mamie) married Floyd Maine, had 7 children, and are now both deceased. William R. (Bill) married Florance Williams and they have 2 children. Jessie married Charlie Meaver and they had 3 children. Andrew George McBain is deceased. Elizabeth I. (Betty) married Charlie Knight. Margaret T. (Peggy) married Judd Ladd and they have 4 children.

Andrew George (above mentioned) was born March 17, 1916 in Edmonton. He served overseas in World War II between 1942 and '45 as L.A.C. in the R.C.A.F. He also was postmaster at Mulhurst from 1951 until his death in June 1972 at the age of 56 years.

WILLIAM McBAIN HISTORY

by William McBain

I was born August 12, 1910 in Nairn, Scotland and came to Canada and then to Edmonton with my parents in 1912.

I served overseas from 1941 to 1944 as Rear Gunner with the #7 Pathfinder Squadron attached to the R.A.F.



The McBain Cafe in 1940. The present site has a Beach Mart, with Grocery Store, Radio Shack and Hardware. Mulhurst, Alta.

I married Florance Williams in 1946 and we lived at Waterways, now called Fort McMurray, until 1948. We then took over Ernie Holmgren's store in Mulhurst, in 1948, and operated it as McBain's General Store until 1964. I operated a school bus to Pipestone and Pigeon Lake Regional Schools from 1957 until 1977. I have been the Municipal Policeman at Mulhurst from 1966 until the present time.

THE GEO. W. MULLIGAN FAMILY

by Ruth Milligan Holmgren

My father, George W. Mulligan, came from Ontario in 1903, to Alberta which was then the N.W. Territories. He was the first man to file on a homestead, the S.E. 14-47-28-W4, in that area. He built a log house and barn and my mother and the children came by train and wagon in August 1903. Our

nearest neighbors, 7 miles east, were George and Frank Sinex - bachelors; and west, was Mr. Lea and family, which is now the Rundle Mission site.

In 1904 Mr. Albert Knight came from Ontario and filed on the N.E. 14-47-28-W4, his wife and family came later. K.O. Hyden, a bachelor, from S. Dakota filed on the S.W. 12-47-28-W4. Other settlers included: Aulden Ayers family, U.S.A.; Carl Maaco, U.S.A.; C. Moodie, Alabama, U.S.A.; Bruce Huyck family, Michigan, U.S.A.; S. Wagar and Peters families, 1904, from N. Dakota, U.S.A.; Robert Van Volkenburg; Jim and Phil and daughter, Ontario.

In 1905 - September 1st, the Province of Alberta was declared. Our nearest town and Post Office was Millet, Alberta, 25 miles east.

Furniture was home made: beds, tables, chairs. Home made mattresses were made of heavy pillow ticking and stuffed with dry hay. Later we saved the feathers of ducks, prairie chickens, partridge and geese and the mattress was filled with these feathers to make a feather bed. The washing of clothes was done on a wash board.

Church was first held in settlers homes. Later Spring Hill School was used for both Sunday school and church. Mr. Evers and Mr. Law were early student ministers and Austin Ayers, a brother of Aulden Ayers, was the Sunday School teacher.

The distance the Mulligan's walked to school was 2½ miles. After the Christmas concert, school was closed until April 1st. We then attended from May to December. Some of the teachers were qualified. Others taught on a permit - they were young men or women out of high school. Dances were held in settlers' homes and later in the school house.

The first papers received were: "Family Herald", "Winnipeg North-West Farmer", a Calgary paper and the "Winnipeg Free Press". All papers came once each week.

Crops were first seeded by hand and cut with a scythe and harvested by shaking the grain and separating it from the straw. Hay was first cut with a scythe. Later a second-hand mower and hay rake were used, also a binder. Both hay and grain bundles were hauled to the barn yard and stacked, as threshing came later and the grain was safe if stacked. Later, we had the big barn, with hay slings, then haying was no great chore.

Water was a dug well 33 ft. deep. The water level was 3 ft. A rope and pulley was used to pull a pailfull 30 ft. up by hand. The children helped with all farm chores. Grain: The one load of wheat was hauled to MacEachern Flour Mill in Wetaskiwin, a distance of 35 miles. There it was made into flour, cereal, bran, etc. This flour lasted for one year at Mulligans'.

Post Office: The Mulhurst Post Office came to our farm in 1911. At that time, my brother Bill Mulligan had the mail route to Millet via Mulhurst, Bonnie Glen Post Office and Patience Post Office and returned to Mulhurst the following day. The mail was carried twice each week on Friday and Saturday.



Log house with slab roof, home of George W. Mulligan, 1912. The horses were manned by L. to R.: George Jr., Billie, Coral on horse, George W. Mulligan, Ruth.



Lola Smith Mulligan, Ruth Mulligan, Margaret Roop, Jud, George Jr. 1920 ready for a swim in Pigeon Lake. Swim suits shown are of "modern" design.



Margaret (Roop) Mulligan was a teacher at Springhill, George H. Mulligan, Margaret Mulligan.

In 1914, Bill joined the 151 Battalion from which he later was discharged. He then married and moved to Vancouver. At that time the mail route was to the Patience Post Office from Millet by Mr. Dumey and our route was via Bonnie Glen and Patience. Mr. Orrock was Post Master at Bonnie Glen and Mrs. Moffat was Post Mistress at Patience. Mail exchanged, Mr. Dumey returned to Millet and we returned to Mulhurst after having our dinner at Moffat's, fed our horses and left Patience at 1:30 P.M.

I often drove the mail route, during spring work and harvesting. In 1917, my brother George H. was overseas. At that time, I was working and was my father's only helper. My father died in 1941 in Mulhurst hamlet.

In 1918, while brother George was overseas, the Spanish Flu visited our home. Both parents had it at the same time. Luckily - I did not. I hardly had anytime left after doing all the work. We had 8 horses -4 Percherons, who each drank at least 3 pails of water once each day, a small team of driving horses and 2 saddle horses. Those 4 horses drank less water. Horses had to be fed, watered and the barn cleaned every day. We also kept 9 milk cows in the barn, so I was going from early morning until late evening with chores. At that time we had a cooking range and a tin air-tight heater. We burned tamarac wood which kept the house warm, as the fire lasted all night. Mother and Dad made a slow recovery, but at last were able to help with household work and cooking and outdoor chores.

Mulhurst; In 1929, the rail way came to Thorsby, where J. Rolston was post master. The mail route then came to the hamlet of Mulhurst. Andy Blomquist, for many years hauled the mail and was indeed well liked by all who had ever known him. He was ever ready to bring an extra parcel from Thorsby. He also had the mail route east and north of Mulhurst. The roads then were not gravelled. At times he was bogged down in mud, but at no time ever lost his temper - sometimes late, but always smiling. He will long be remembered by his Mulhurst friends and the people of R.R. No. 2, Thorsby.



Cutting railroad ties, in the earlier days.

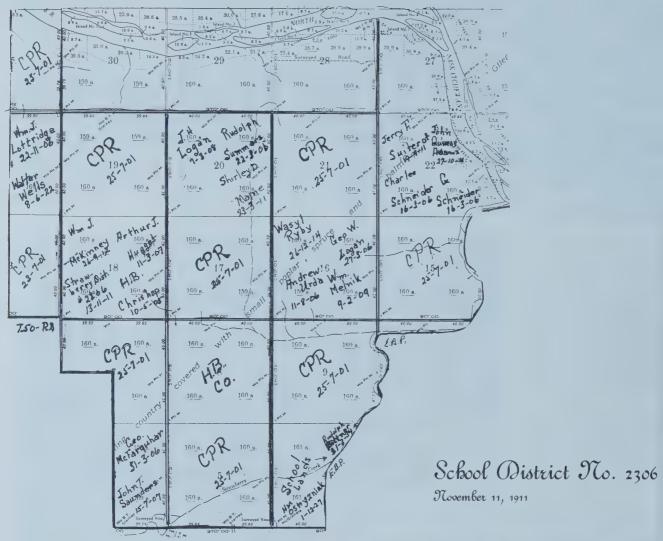


1912, Hauling logs for Rowley's sawmill at Pigeon Lake. Tom Humphrey driving horses, Dell Rowley standing on load.



1910, Furgurson and Mullins Camp on west side of Pigeon Lake. Mr. and Mrs. Mulligan with helpers in front of cook house where they cooked for 115 men.

Strawberry



The First Homesteaders & Grants to the CPR

The Information on this Map Courtesy of: Alberta Prov. Archives and Alberta Gov't Map Division



Pupils of Strawberry School with Mrs. Hicks teaching.

STRAWBERRY SCHOOL #2306

by June A. Dolling

The school was built in 1912. The first daily register for recording the attendance of pupils that can be found is January 1913. Mrs. E.L. Littleproud was the teacher and Jessie McFarquhar, James Grant, Clarence Grant, Charles Smith, Georgia McFarquhar, and Henry Smith were the pupils. In March Stephen Harysz attended for a couple of months. In May the Grant boys left. There was no school in June.

The school board decided that they would not hold school in 1915 so the McFarquhar girls attended the Telfordville School for 2 years. Mrs. Littleproud went to teach at Templeton. In September 1916 the school was compelled to reopen. Mrs. Littleproud was again hired to teach and had 5 students. The school was inspected by M.V. Nelson on Sept. 7, 1916.



Strawberry School about 1922.

In Nov. 1918 the school was closed because of the flu and remained closed until June when it opened for just 1 month. It reopened in Dec. with the same pupils. Mr. J.H. VanAlsyne was the secretary. The school was of frame construction and had maps of the world, North America, Canada, and Alberta, one globe, one ball, frame, 76 sq. ft. of blackboard space, one dictionary, 2 reference books, and a total of 9

supplementary books.

In Sept. 1919 Miss C.A. Charman was the teacher.
No school was held in March, April, May or June. Mrs.
A.M. Woolley was teacher in Sept. 1920. An
Inspector's report by Mr. G.W. Robertson for Oct.
1920 showed "fences good, closets satisfactory, fuel
shed very good, stable very good, water supply good,
grounds too small, school house in good repair, good
equipment - more needed, punctuality good,
attendance good, general interest of the board in their
school, good. General standing of the classes; poor to
fair due to irregular school attendance. Progress, fairly
good. A foundation should be put under the school
and a bookcase is needed, also an organ. Kindly

conduct a yearly school this year."

Miss M.F. MacGillivray came to teach in Jan. 1921 with Mr. Robertson as inspector. King George V's birthday on June 3 was a holiday. School started on Aug. 15, 1921 with Miss L. Irish as teacher.

Sept. 1922 saw the term opened with Mr. Alfred Drew as the teacher. The school was inspected on Oct. 11 by Mr. J.A. Fife and again on May 10, 1923. Mr. Archie Donald was the 1923 teacher. Mr. E.L. Fuller inspected the school on Sept. 25, 1923. The teachers' convention was held in Wetaskiwin the third week in Oct.

In 1924 Miss Marion Stenhouse was the teacher and she also taught in 1925. Miss G.E. Simpson was the 1926 teacher. Sept. 1927 saw Mr. Glen Carmichael the new teacher, who stayed until 1928.

The 1930 register is missing as it burned with the school in June. Mr. Gaffer had been the teacher in Sept. 1929. Mr. Fred Garrett came as the teacher in 1930 and school was held in Mr. and Mrs. Sam Lunde's new house. A new school was built 2 miles east of the old site and Avon Moor School was built west and south. Mr. Garrett was the teacher in the new Strawberry School in 1931. He had 21 pupils with Grades 1 to 8, plus 2 students in Grade 11. He taught again in 1932 and 1933. The 1934 term began with Mr. G.R. Mealing as the teacher, he also taught in 1935 and 1936.

In 1937 Mr. Leo Kirchinsky was the teacher and again in 1938. Olive McCreary came to teach in 1939. There were Grades 1 to 10 with 19 pupils. Mr. William Strohschein taught in 1940, 1941, and he also stayed for 1942.

Mrs. Kay Hicks was the teacher for 1942 and taught for four months in 1943 until she resigned to join the armed forces. Mrs. Ethel Campbell was hired to conduct correspondence courses for the pupils. R. Clark taught the month of July. There was no teacher in 1944 until Oct. when Mr. Paul Krueger came. He taught until Dec. 1945. Mrs. Hicks taught again for 4 months with Doris Campbell completing the year as the former teachers were active in the war. The rate of salary was \$1,008.00 per annum. On Sept. 1, 1946 Mr. Emil H. Senft was the teacher. Mrs. Ethel Campbell taught the children in Sept. 1947 to the end of the 1949 term. Miss Rosaline Morden taught in 1950 and '51. Miss Esther Kunkel taught in 1952 and 1953. Mrs. Kay Hicks taught again in 1953 and until June 1962 when the school was closed.

With the closing of this school and the selling of the building to Mr. Alec Adamic, a long time era came to a close. Many school meetings were held - some good and some violent. Many lovely Christmas concerts were put on and many social functions were held. United Church services were held in it for many years. Rhodes scholar, teachers, nurses, high executives, etc., are among former students of this school. The land that the first school was on, was bought by the Strawberry Community where they erected a large community hall.

HOLBORN FERRY

On February 9, 1911, a meeting was held at Mr. Chas. Snider's house (in the Huggett district north-east of Telfordville) to make arrangements in connection with the building of a cable ferry for use on the North Saskatchewan River. Following is a copy of the minutes of the meeting:

"Meeting called to order by Mr. Suiter re the ferry business across the river. It was proposed by Mr. Suiter that a committee be appointed to superintend everything to do with buildings. Moved by A. Huggett, seconded by Mr. Suiter, that J. Logan be appointed one of the committee to superintend building the boat; also Mr. Suiter and Mr. Miencke. Committee to superintend road building: Moved by Mr. Suiter, seconded by Mr. Miencke, that Mr. Ferguson be appointed one of the road committee, also Mr. G. Logan, and Mr. G. Snider. Moved by Mr. Suiter, seconded by G. Logan that the Board of Trade of Stony Plain purchase the cable and blocks at cost and also collect money. Moved by S. Logan, seconded by Mr. Suiter, that we adjourn." Arthur Huggett was secretary for the meeting.

The following petition was circulated in the Huggett and Stony Plain areas: "We, the undersigned parties interested in building and installing a ferry boat

and grading roads to same on the North Saskatchewan river at or near the north-west corner of 27-50-1-W5, do hereby pledge ourselves to give the amount set opposite our names in cash or its equivalent in works or material for building boat. All monies to be paid into committee or deposited in the Canadian Bank of Commerce of Stony Plain, Alberta, on or before March 1, 1911, and work to be done not later than July 1st, 1911".

List of subscribers to the ferry boat fund as follows: J. Suiter, G. Logan, J. Logan, G. Snider, C. Snider, T. Urda, W. Melnik, M. Glubisz, J. Huggett, A. Huggett, A. Chrishop, F. Miencke, Wm. Dunlop, C. Moeller, H. Diercks. It is to be noted that the foregoing all lived south of the river near the site of the proposed ferry. There were as well twenty-five names of people who lived in Stony Plain or district and the following contributors from Telfordville: Gamsby, Littleproud, Stokke, Stevens, Van Alstyne, McDonnell, Grant, Johnson, Breton and Graham.

The ferry was built and put into operation in 1911, near a place along the river called, by river boatmen of the day, Lamoureux landing. As a result of this it was called the Lamoureux ferry for a time but became known later as the Holborn ferry. It continued in operation each year until 1965.



Ferry at Holborn.

TRANSPORT BY WATER

by Albert Van Alstyne

An interesting part of our pioneer history, written by Elizabeth Huggett, appeared in the Western Messenger's Alberta Golden Jubilee issue of November 11th, 1955. It was titled "Transport by water important in developing Huggett area", and went as follows: "In 1906, the North West Timber and Mining Co., which numbered among its shareholders some well known people of the past such as Senator Lessard, Messrs Gariepy, Charlie (Chris) Cross, Tom Scott, Bill Graves and Dick Montefield.

The Company's Edmonton office was operated by

the latter two men and located in a wooden shack where the McDonald hotel now stands. A Colonel Carstairs and Tom Scott were sent out on an exploration trip and were successful in discovering stone suitable for building. This stone was on the south bank of the North Saskatchewan river, opposite McPhee's island, and about three miles upstream from what was known as Lamoureaux Landing, the present site of the Holborn ferry.

A quarry was established under the management of Tom Scott and enough stone was taken out to build the foundations of the first University buildings in Edmonton. From fifteen to twenty men were employed, among them being Arthur Huggett and Tom Sangster, early settlers in the Strawberry district. Buildings at the site included, the office, cook house, bunk house and blacksmith shop, all destroyed in the river flood of 1915.

The stone was loaded from a pier in the river and was transported to Edmonton in a scow. The scow was pushed ahead of a steam boat named "The City of Strathcona" which was owned by John Walters and commanded by Captain Pearce.

"The City of Strathcona" operated between Edmonton and Rocky Rapids carrying supplies for lumber camps, among which were ones owned by John Walter's Lumber Company and the D.R. Fraser Company. The Walter's camps at the Poplar and Buck creeks were operated by Charles and John Cropley, early settlers of the Genesee district. Fred Grant, better known as "Paul Bunyon", an old timer of the Telfordville district, was at one time a cook in the Charles Cropley camp.

When the water was high it took about three days for the boat to travel from Edmonton to the quarry, the return trip about seven hours. In 1909, the quarry closed down when it was unable to compete with the machinery produced stone of the Glenbow Quarry Company near Calgary. "The City of Strathcona" had a sister ship called "The City of Edmonton", which travelled upstream from Edmonton as far as Big Island, near the present site of Devon, being too large to pass that point. The steam boat service having been discontinued, the Holborn ferry was built in 1911, by government grant and public subscription, thus began a new era.

On that note Elizabeth (Beth) ended her story of the quarry and the river boats. Not mentioned was what could be called a honeymoon cruise taken by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Huggett, on "The City of Strathcona". In early September of 1907, Arthur walked from his homestead to Edmonton in order to meet his fiancee, Miss Maud Simmins who had just arrived from England. Miss Simmins was accompanied by Arthur's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Huggett. Following the marriage of Arthur and Miss Simmins, in the Church of England, All Saints' Cathedral, passage was booked for the four aboard the river boat on its way to the stone quarry. After arrival at the quarry, a walk of three miles through the bush brought them to Arthur's homestead.

James Huggett was first postmaster at the post office which was given the family name. The Huggett office was five miles north east of the Telfordville office, and it was from the latter that mail was brought for the many years it was in use. In 1958, the office was closed when a rural delivery route was established in the area.

TELESAT STATION

by Mrs. A.D. MacLean

One of a system of 37 earth stations in the Telesat



Tele stat Canada near Strawberry Creek north of Thorsby.

Canada satellite telecommunications systems is located near Thorsby beside Strawberry Creek. It is in the Fruitland - Huggett district, and serves the Edmonton area.

In Jan. of 1973, Telesat Canada's domestic satellite communications began commercial operations. Just a little over 3 years after its incorporation (in 1970), Telesat Canada was operating what is expected to be the world's first domestic satellite communication system using satellites in synchronous orbit. The objective of Telesat Canada is to establish satellite telecommunications systems providing, on a commercial basis, telecommunication services between points in Canada. It is a common carrier of telecommunications whose services and facilities are available to its customers at commercial rates.

The main difference between Telesat Canada and other Canadian common carriers is that it uses a combination of earth stations and satellites, instead of wires, cables, and towers to distribute its services.

Remote areas of Northern Canada and large centres in the south will benefit by Telesat due to the fact that no joining link of wires or microwave towers between sender and receiver is necessary. It costs no more to communicate across 4000 miles than it does across 40 miles.

The satellite is simply a microwave relay tower 22,300 miles high. On the ground, the satellite system requires earth stations to receive the signals from the satellite. The earth stations, in turn feed the satellite signals into the local communications distribution systems such as telephone, television, data and radio network for further distribution into the homes and offices of the communities served.

HERBERT ALBRECHT MEMOIRS OF THE THORSBY DISTRICT

When we returned to Alberta from B.C. in the fall of 1934, my brother Walter and I stayed with my uncle and aunt (the Ed Schmidt family) on the farm

southeast of Calmar until my father rented a farm house nearby.

My mother had an ear operation shortly after we came back from B.C. She and my sisters stayed with my grandparents at Nisku until she was well again.

My father spent a lot of time building a house for us to live in, on the farm he purchased in the Strawberry District, north of Thorsby. He bought some cattle and horses. One of the horses was a wild bronco from the foothills out west. It took a lot of work and time to break her in so we could use her. She never did really get tame even though we had her for more than 10 years and she raised 3 colts.

The house was quite small - only 16 ft. by 24 ft. with a small upstairs. We had to climb up a ladder to get there. It was the middle of May when we made the move out to our new home. My uncle Sam was along to help drive one of the teams of horses. We had 2 wagons, a democrat or buggy as it was sometimes called, and 5 head of cattle. After staying overnight on a farmer's place 3 miles north and 1 mile west of Thorsby, we arrived at one o'clock in the afternoon on the second day. The bush around the house was quite small. We could drive through most of it with horse and wagon. Today the trees are 12 inches in diameter. We attended the Strawberry School which was 4 miles by road but we always took the short cut across country past the Hugget Post Office which was then less than 3 miles. The Strawberry School had up to 30 pupils and 1 teacher who taught from grades 1 to 10.

Times were bad and money was scarce in those days. My parents had come back from B.C. with \$200.00 cash besides the machinery and a little furniture. Our grandparents and friends of the family gave us a few head of cattle so we could have milk for the family.

In summer we picked wild berries which my mother canned for fruit. One spring, she canned 40 quarts of wild strawberries. She once bought 50 flour sacks from a bakery from which she made clothes, curtains, towels, etc. My mother was a good seamstress and earned a little money sewing for others.

In 1938 we built a new house from the timber we had cut the winter before on leases we obtained along the river banks. The timber was mostly in the deep ravines leading into the North Saskatchewan River. Making haul roads and skidding logs on the steep hillsides was a difficult task for man and horse. Where the banks were too steep, we would send the logs down iced runways onto the river ice. We then loaded the logs on sleighs and hauled them with horses 4 miles down the river to the sawmill setting at the Holborn Ferry. It was a steam-driven sawmill owned by Mr. Schnoor of the Stony Plain area. The first setting was at the mouth of the Strawberry Creek to which they drove the steamer on the ice. By the time they finished sawing there, the river ice had weakened from spring thaw, and rather than risk moving on the ice, they obtained a capstan and winched the steamer

up the creek bank. The capstan was anchored into the frozen ground with a hole about 4 ft. deep. A team of horses hitched to a long beam walked in a circle and turned the winch. They still had to cross the river at the ferry and were within 100 feet of the other side when the steamer broke through the ice. They had to set up the capstan again, cut a channel in the ice with ice saws, and winch the steamer the rest of the way to shore. The steamer, however, was none the worse for its dunking and a week or so later was busily sawing lumber. We had cut about 22,000 feet of lumber. We sold some to pay the saw bill and hauled the rest home over the ferry with horse and wagon. At home it was dry-piled and when dry, hauled to Block and Petrie's planer mill at St. Francis. We cut trees for lumber nearly every year until 1948. There was one millsetting on the river flat on Fred Moeller's land where there was a road down to the river, and another on the same flat on Bill Tober's land. Here we had to haul the lumber out on the old sandstone quarry trail which was very steep and we could only pull up a very small load with 4 horses. We ended up getting Doug LaRose, the local farm produce trucker, to haul it home with horses because the roads were too soft and muddy in the spring for the truck.

Trucking in those days was a matter of fighting muddy roads. In the spring people often waited till midnight, when it froze a little, so you could get home. The cream was picked up once a week and taken to Edmonton by truck. If the road was too muddy into your place, you had to take it out with horses to a gravelled road because by the second week, the cream would be sour. The cream cheque was not much, but it was very important to the small farmer then. Many people rode on the farm delivery truck to Edmonton. If you were shipping livestock, you were allowed to ride in the cab. Otherwise you rode in the back with the livestock. In 1939, Douglas LaRose loaded up most of the children from the Strawberry school on the back of his truck to see the King and Queen when they visited Edmonton.

In the spring of 1942, we had a flood of major proportions. When I arrived at the South Edmonton CPR station to take the train to Thorsby, the conductor did not know whether they should go or not because of flood conditions. Perhaps my wanting to go to Thorsby was enough to make them go. It was raining hard all the way to Thorsby and had rained for a week. Some farmers claimed 9 inches in 4 days. The land, which is quite flat between Calmar and Buford, seemed completely covered with water for miles on both sides of the track. Land which had been seeded a week or two before was covered with water with waves a foot high, like a huge lake. When the train got to Thorsby, they were told that the track was washed out ahead and when they wanted to go back, they were told it was washed out behind. When I went back a week later, it was the first trip the train made back to Edmonton, since I got off at Thorsby. I had walked the 12 miles home. I recall that about a mile from

Thorsby, the water was coming out of the bush into the ditch in a solid sheet for hundreds of yards. When I crossed the Strawberry Creek at the Fruitland bridge, the water was a foot below the bridge. That night every bridge on the Strawberry Creek from Sunnybrook to the river was washed out. Kruger, the blacksmith in Telfordville, nearly lost his house. The bank had washed away until a third of it was hanging over the edge.

THE JOHN ALBRECHT FAMILY HISTORY

John Albrecht immigrated to Canada in 1885 as a single man, 19 years old. His father owned a wool-weaving mill in White Russia at the time. John had reached conscription age, so his father took him on a trip to observe the militia. John, however, took a dislike to the army and it was decided that he would go to Canada instead. He was given money for travel fare, and \$400.00 to buy land in Canada. He came to Western Canada and worked on the railroad construction gangs in southern Alberta for 3 years. When the railroad reached Edmonton, he took up a homestead beside the Saskatchewan river, west of Nisku. He did not like southern Alberta because, in the 3 years, he claimed that it only rained twice and snowed 3 times. His father sent another \$400.00 to set up farming.

John married Caroline Othelia Wedman whom he met in Edmonton. They raised a family of 7 children; 4 boys, Philip, Henry, Ferdinand (John Jr.) and Sam, and 3 girls, Bertha, Rose, and Ruth. During the Russian Revolution, John's parents also came to Canada. They stayed for a while at the home of another son, William, who had also immigrated to



The John Albrecht Family.

Back row L. to R. Henry, Philip and Bertha. Front row, Ferdinand (John Jr.), Othelia, Sam, John, Ruth and Rose - 1914.

Canada and settled at Kandahar, Sask. John's parents stayed with him till they passed away. They were both buried in the Heimthal Lutheran Church cemetery.

John had built a large two-storey house and given 2 quarters of land to his son Philip. The land, being on the river bank and also cut up by creeks, was not a very productive unit. Times had changed and the river was no longer used for transport and travel. So in 1925, both John and Philip sold their land to a neighbor and bought land south of Calmar. Here John also assisted Henry, his second oldest son, to start farming on a quarter of land nearby. Othelia, his wife, passed away in 1933 and was buried in the Heimthal Lutheran Church Cemetery. Having again become burdened by debt, John sold the land at Calmar, and assisted his son John Jr. to start farming south of Thorsby on the NE 9-48-1-W5. John Jr. sold the land to Sam, the youngest son, in 1937. John Albrecht spent his declining years living with the families of sons Philip and Sam in the Thorsby district and his daughter Bertha at Lumby, B.C., where he passed away in 1945 at the age of 80 years. He was buried in the Lutheran Church cemetery in Vernon, B.C.

RUTH ALBRECHT

Ruth Albrecht, youngest daughter of John and Othelia Albrecht, married Pastor Paul Hanneman in 1925 when he served the Heimthal Lutheran Church congregation. They raised a family of 3 children - Karl, Wilfred and Gertrude. They were also foster parents to about 30 other children, after their own were old enough to leave home. Quite a few of these foster children still maintain close family ties with Ruth Hanneman. The Hanneman family lived in the Telfordville Lutheran Church parsonage for 61/2 years, when Rev. Paul Hanneman served as pastor to the



Conformation Class at Telfordville Lutheran Church. L. to R. Violet Sonnenberg, Gertrude Albrecht, Freida Schmidt, Selma Hartfelder, Pastor Paul Hanneman.



Rev. Paul Hanneman Family
L. to R. Karl and Ruth Hanneman, Robert Robinson (foster child)
Wilfred, Gertrude and Rev. Paul Hanneman.

Telfordville and Sunnybrook Lutheran congregations. Rev. Paul Hanneman passed away in 1975 at the age of 80 years in Fort Saskatchewan where Ruth still lives. Karl is married, lives on a farm near Fort Saskatchewan, works at the cancer clinic in Edmonton, and keeps bees as a hobby as well as some research work in bee keeping. They have 6 children, all of them married. Wilfred is a school teacher in Ardrossan, is married and they have raised 2 children. Gertrude married Elder Lentz. They raised 4 children and live in Fort Saskatchewan.

THE PHILIP ALBRECHT FAMILY HISTORY

Philip Albrecht, the oldest son of John and Othelia Albrecht, married Ella Stebner of Nisku, Alta. They raised a family of 5 children; Herbert, Walter, Gertrude, Doris, and Agnes. At Calmar, Philip purchased a half section of land. In 1929, he sold it and moved to Prince George, B.C. where he farmed for 4 years during the depression. In 1934, he had an auction sale, sold his livestock, and moved his family and farm machinery back to Alberta. He purchased the SW 19-50-1-W5 in the Strawberry district, from the CPR for \$10.00 an acre. There were 30 acres on it under cultivation. He owned a 20-30 Wallis tractor and breaking-plow which he had shipped by rail to Prince George, B.C. and back. He used it to clear and break a hundred acres for himself and did custom breaking for others in the district, every summer during most of July and August, until he passed away in 1946. He was buried in the Telfordville Lutheran Church cemetery.

In 1948, Gertrude married Eugene Mantei. They lived on a farm about 3 miles from the Albrecht place and raised 4 children; Robert, Barry, Kerry and Lois. Doris married Ben Kihnert of Leduc in 1949. They raised 2 children, Diane and Lyle. Ella, Philip's widow married Gus Kuhnert in 1950. They made their home in Edmonton. Walter married Lydia Kapchinsky of Edmonton in 1951. They lived on the estate until it was sold in 1953. They moved to Edmonton where Walter worked in the welding trade. They raised 4

children; 2 boys and 2 girls, Dale, Kenneth, Valerie, and Gloria. Agnes trained and works as a nursing aide. She married Gilbert Homes of Olds, Alberta in 1961. They have no children and make their home at Westward Ho, west of Olds. Herbert married Martha Siperko in 1957. They raised a boy, Edwin, and a girl, Karen. They live in Fort Saskatchewan where Hubert works as an Engineering Technician.

THE WALTER BREWSTER SR. FAMILY

by Mary Lunde & Walter Brewster

Walter Brewster Sr. was born in Spalding, Lincolnshire, England on Sept. 11th, 1890. He immigrated to Canada in 1911 with a brother, George, and homesteaded in the Acadia Valley district. Two older brothers had come over earlier to the Bracken, Sask. area.

During his homesteading days he met and married, in Sept. 1917, a young widow, Mrs. Daisy Thomas. She had four children, Jessie, George, Lucy and Kathleen (Kathy or Kay as she was better known).

He let his homestead go and moved onto her farm in the Josephine district, near Empress, Saskatchewan. They had a dairy farm and sold bottled milk and cream in Empress.

Mother and Dad, with five Brewster children and two Thomas girls, moved here in May 1926. We belonged to the dried-out prairie farmers that were moved by the C.P.R. to this area.

We moved by train and remember the stop at Bassano. We had to wait over there, and we saw our first dandelion! Mother, coming from Manitoba, knew what they were. Mother was born in Manitoba on Nov. 22nd, 1888. Her parents had arrived a couple of months before her birth, from Cheshire, England. Mother only weighed $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. at birth. There was no doctor or hospital.

We all remember our first sight of the Rockies on the western horizon as we came north of Calgary. We weren't to see them again until we were full grown.

Then to Leduc - "Lee-Dook" as the conductor called it out. Leduc of 1926 was different than it is today. That was the last of the train for us. Our worldly possessions loaded on the hay rack, democrat full of children, we headed west with 14 year old Lucy driving one outfit and Dad the other.

The Blind Line, Highway 39 as it is known now, wasn't the best, but we did make it to Calmar that first night. We stayed at Len Postle's for a couple of days. The reason for this is forgotten now. When we did resume our journey, we made our next stop at Weed Creek camp-site. (ha! Ha!) Rain! Snow! All of us were wet and miserable. Thank goodness for Mother's bush country experience. She knew how to get dry wood when everything was wet. We soon had a campfire going and got dried out and warm. We traveled on west until we came to land on the Strawberry Creek

bank near where Sid Rixon lived. This was to have been our farm, but most of the land was in the creek, so we camped there while Dad went back to Leduc and got another quarter farther west. This quarter was to become our home, NW 5-50-1 W5.

Crossing the Strawberry Creek in May without a bridge wasn't too good. However, we made it up the hill and were very surprised to see two girls waving to us. They invited us all into the house for something to eat! That was the beginning of a friendship with the McFarquhar family that has lasted all these years. The memory of that most bountiful lunch!

We were only half a mile from our destination. Greatly refreshed, we made our way on and pitched our tent for the night. We camped there for awhile and the sloughs full of water, warm from the spring sunshine, were sure lovely. Prairie children weren't used to anything like that. We soon found a vacant house in the district, an empty log house, known as the Smith place, next to the first Strawberry school. The Strawberry Hall now stands on that ground. The school burned down in June, 1931 and the first hall burned down in Dec. 1961. They rebuilt the hall in 1962.



Brewsters - 1929.

Mary, Dad, Walter, Elsie, Mother's seated, holding Deniis. Lucy, Kay in front, Brady and Jesse.

Another member was added to our family in April 1929. Dennis proved to be the last of the family.

We lived in this house and attended school until it burned. Then we went to school for three weeks in the new house Sam Lunde was building. The next fall we started school in the new Strawberry School, one mile east. A new district to the west of us was called Elrose, later changed to Avon Moor. This later on became a Baptist church and we believe now stands unused.

We lived on the Smith place until the spring of 1933. The family grew up and moved away one by one. In Dec. of 1948 Mother and Dad moved to Edmonton, and Dad worked for a few years, mostly as a night watchman. Mother took in welfare children. She had two. Both were placed in nice homes later. On Dad's retirement in 1954 they moved back to the same farm. He farmed again until son Brady came home.



Mr. & Mrs. Walter Brewster Sr.

They both lived there until they all moved to a Buck Creek homestead in 1962.

In the year 1970 Dad made a visit back to England. This had always been a dream of his. Daughter Mary and her husband Erling and grandson Douglas went with him that June. Wardair had really cheap rates that year as a return flight was only \$235.00. It was a real experience to watch Dad's face as we came down over the English countryside. He had never expected to see it again, and the wonderment and pleasure showed in his face. He visited many of his old haunts, the houses he had lived in, pubs he had known as a young fellow, and many of his old acquaintances. A relative even located his boyhood girlfriend. Daughter Mary was witness to this meeting. She was then 84 and married to Dad's old working partner. Did the memories ever come to life then!

Again, three years later in 1973, he went back. This time son Walter and his wife Ruby went with him. He wouldn't believe everything he had seen before, so he wanted to go back and see it all again.

In the spring of 1978 a nephew's wife came from England to visit him. He was a little forgetful, but she talked to him and he asked her, "Are you from Spalding?" I guess that English accent rang a bell.



Brewsters Walter, 88 yeras old, Daisy, 90 years old.

Our parents lived in Brady's yard until Sept. 1976, then moved to Edmonton with daughter Lucy, until illness and old age made it necessary for Dad to enter the Parkland Nursing Home in March of 1977. Mother remained with Lucy until the new part of the nursing home was completed and then on Sept. 1st of the same year she took up residence there too. They have a double room and keep house quite nicely. She has her spinning wheel there and spins and knits to pass the time. She also has her own 'fridge and little electric cooking pot.

Now as to the family. Jessie Thomas married Tom Robertson and they lived in B.C. They had three girls. All are married now, with children and grand-children of their own. Tom died in Oct. 1975.

George Thomas married Bessie Abbott and later married Cynthia Burgess. They have one daughter, who is married and has children. They live in Edmonton.

Lucy Thomas married Gunnar Lindahl and they have two children. Both are married with children of their own. Gunnar was killed in a car accident in 1956. Lucy lives in Edmonton.

Kay Thomas married Harry Burgess and they have two boys, both of whom are married and have children. They live in B.C.

Mary Brewster married Erling Lunde and they have four children. Three are married with children and one is going to school. They live in the Telfordville district.



5 Generation of Mrs. Daisy Brewster.
Center back: Great great Grandmother Brewster. To her right,
Daughter Jessie Robertson. To her left, Grandaughter Mary. Allen
Center front, Great Grandson Gilbert Allen, and his two twin sons,
Garret and Nathen, Great Great Grandsons of Mrs. Brewster.

Elsie Brewster married Jack Roger and they have a family of two. Both are married with families of their own. Elsie lives in Meanook. Jack died in March 1976.

Walter Brewster married Ruby Groves and they have four boys. They are all married with children of their own. They live in Thorsby.

Brady Brewster married Florence DeBloq and they have two children. Both are married. One has children. They live at Buck Creek.

Jesse Brewster married a Dutch girl, Denie Devas while in the army in Holland. They had three girls. Jesse died in September 1972. Denie lives in Edmonton.

Dennis Brewster married Pearl Scott and they have two children. One is married with children of her own and the other is unmarried. They live at Buck Creek.

Walter and Daisy Brewster, who are responsible for this history, are still living in the Parkland Nursing Home in Leduc.

THE CAMPBELLS

by Ainslie (Campbell) Thomas

From the shores of Lake Ainslie, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, to the gold fields of the Yukon, to a homestead in the Pemburton Hill District and finally to the S.E. of 16-50-1 W5, in the Strawberry district, came to Donald Edward Campbell. He was the seventh son of Edward Campbell and Annie McQuarrie and in his youth the travelling companion of his brother John. Their adventuring together finally saw them settled on a homestead in Alberta. By this time John had married Margaret MacLean.



Shortly after the MacLean family arrived in the west to visit the Campbells. L. to R. Jack & Margaret Campbell, Ed Campbell, Allen & Annie MacLean, Jessie MacLean, Ethel Campbell, Annie, Archie MacLean and Ainslie Campbell in front.

It was during these homesteading days that Ed sent east for his "promised one" to join him in the west. Consequently, Ethel Blanche Mealing, third child of Thomas Mealing and Emmie Bayliss of Birmingham, England, left her teaching career at Bras D'Or Lake. The couple were married in Stony Plain in September 1917, and to the skirl of Hugh MacKinnon's bag pipes, they journeyed to the homestead in Pemburton Hill district.

The farm in Strawberry District was purchased in the spring of 1918 from Mr. Tobin. In the true pioneer spirit so typical of the era, they contended with the elements, developed the farm and achieved a comfortable living.



Wedding of Ainslie Campbell & Ves Thoms in Feb. 1947. L. to R. Karl & Annie Thomas, Margaret Campbell holding Vickie, Ethel Campbell, bride & groom, Hugh Campbell, Doris Campbell and Ed Thomas.

There on the farm, their three children: Ainslie, Hugh, and Doris were born and raised. Strawberry School provided their initial schooling; after that it was correspondence courses and Calmar High School.

Both girls chose teaching as their careers, later married and each have a son and a daughter. Ainslie married Ves Thomas of St. Francis. Doris married Donald Ohrn of the Progress District. Hugh operates the Amoco Petroleum loading rack in Breton and lives in Thorsby with his wife, Margaret (Jones) Campbell, formerly of Westerose. They have three daughters.

Ed and Ethel's family has grown from the three children to seven grand children, six of whom are now married and four great grand children, all preschoolers. The families are variously located in Thorsby, Edmonton and Calgary.

John and Margaret returned to the east when Ed and Ethel left the homestead. After a few years absence they returned to purchase the quarter section immediately east of Ed's. They farmed there for seventeen years, sold out and tried their luck at mink ranching in Abbotsford, B.C. The sunset years found them heading back east once again where they have since passed away.

The Campbells supported and particiapted in all the community efforts from dances and card parties, picnics and fairs to road building, school management



4 generations of the Campbell family. L. to R. Ethel Campbell, Margaret Campbell, Vicki (Campbell) Terlesky, holding baby Laurel Terlesky.

and local self government. Modes of transportation ranged from the lowly stone boat to buggy, democrat, farm wagon, cutter, sleigh, Model T. Ford to the ultimate in the possession of a Model A Ford, 1919 vintage.

Ed died April 2nd, 1943. In retirement, Ethel lives in Edmonton.

Although no one resides on the Ed Campbell farm, it is now owned and operated by Doris and Donald Ohrn.

THE CONNOLLYS — STRAWBERRY

by Robert Connolly

Terence Connolly was born in Roscommon, Ireland. He was one of 13 children. He came to Canada in April, 1912, and settled in Edmonton doing carpentry work.

Kathleena (Lena) Smith was also born in Ireland, County Sligo and she, too, was one of 13 children. She came to New York, U.S.A. with her parents, two sisters and a brother in 1910. In 1912, she came to Alberta to marry Terence Connolly, whom she had met and known in the Old Country. She was to meet Terence at Ellerslie. When she got off the train, there was no one to meet her. She asked the ticket agent when the next train would be coming through. He replied "Why didn't you stay on the one you were on?" With that, Terence galloped up on a horse. Shortly after, his brother-in-law, Rev. William Greer followed with a horse and buggy. They journeyed to Rabbit Hill where they were married the following day - Oct. 8, 1912. They lived in Edmonton and in May, 1914, a daughter, Gladys, was born.

That same spring, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Cumming, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Tupling filed on homesteads in the Strawberry district. They pulled straws to see which homestead each was to have. They travelled to see their homesteads by team and wagon, a distance of 40 miles by way of Holborn Ferry. As they journeyed out they found they didn't have any milk for their tea. A cow grazing on the roadside obliged.

In Aug., 1914, when the First World War commenced, Mr. Connolly, a member of the Imperial Army, left for France.

Gladys, their daughter, passed away in Aug. 1917. In late 1917, Mr. Connolly returned to Edmonton.

The summer of 1918 saw Mr. and Mrs. Connolly out on the homestead. They lived in a log cabin that Mr. Gibson had built until their own house was ready. The lumber needed was hauled by a Mr. Lawrence Johnson from a mill out west. The roads were trails and there weren't any bridges.

About 1930, with evidence of the depression everywhere, Mr. Connolly journeyed to Edmonton to make a \$50.00 land payment. The people at the land company did not feel that the amount was enough so Mr. Connolly (who had never kissed the Blarney



The Connolly family about 1931.

Stone), put the \$50.00 back into his pocket and proceeded down the street.

He soon found himself looking at a 1926 Star car. The proprietor of the garage came out to suggest it was the perfect family car and would he like to buy it. Mr. Connolly replied that he had no money and had never driven a car in his life. "Do you have any money at all?" asked the man. "I have \$50.00." replied Mr. Connolly. "Well now, that will be just fine." said the man. "Give me the \$50.00 and you can pay the balance, approximately \$400.00, as you are able. Far as driving the car is concerned, I will have one of the lads from the garage follow us, and when I think you can handle the car, we will let you continue on your own." They had barely reached the outskirts of Edmonton when the salesman turned the car over to Mr. Connolly who. at 50 years of age, managed to drive his new car west to Stony Plain (missed the turn-off and had to come back); over the steep river hill at the Holborn ferry; and home to one surprised wife and five excited children.

The five Connolly children are Kathleen (Mrs. Clarence Willson) Edson; Molly (Mrs. HermanKnull) Warburg district; Frances (Mrs. Jack Throne) Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.; Albert (still on the homestead); Bob, Edmonton.

Mr. and Mrs. Connolly retired to Edmonton in 1950. Mr. Connolly passed away in Jan. 1966 and Mrs. Connolly in Aug. 1974.

WILLIAM AND ADA DOLLING

by June Dolling

William and Ada Dolling were both born in England. In 1898 they were married and after working for a few years in a lumber company, they decided to go to Milwaukee, U.S.A. where Ada's brother Ernest Butler lived. They had 3 children in England; Kathleen, Hubert and Ronald. They started to farm and eventually moved to Calvin, North Dakota, where their fourth child, Cedric, was born. Still wanting to farm, but also wanting to be under the British flag, they moved to a farm at Binloss, Alberta. Life was hard



Ron Dolling breaking land in 1933 with Rumeley oilpull tractor on his farm at Telfordville.

on the prairies with the shortage of water and wood. Grannie Dolling as she became known to many folks, was a mid-wife who helped bring many babies into the world. Kathleeen and her brothers attended school at the local school, andshe later went to Saskatoon. Their home was always open to visitors, and many games of cards were played in their home. Her brother, Frank Butler, lived with them till he passed away and was buried at Telfordville, Alta.

In 1922 sons Hubert and Ronald came to the Telfordville district looking for land. In the spring of 1923 William and Ada Dolling packed their belongings and left the farm on which they had worked so hard. They finally bought and settled on N.W. 10-50-28-W5. Grannie Dolling was an active gardener and an excellent cook. Grandpa Dolling was an expert bookkeeper and was sec.-treas. of Fruitland School for many years.



Red Cross quilt made by the ladies of the Strawberry Red Cross Club-1930. L. to R. Mrs. LaRose, Mrs. Wm. Dolling, Jessie Robinson, Pearl Haller, Ethel Campbell, Douglas LaRose, Junie Dolling, Georgia Wilson, Mrs. Huggett, Edwin LaRose, Beth Huggett, Anne Huggett, Mrs. McFarquhar & Mrs. L. Lottridge.

Kathleen married Jack Libby and a son was born to them, Clifford. Jack died of the 'flu and a number of years later she married George Hicks and they had 6 children; Kathleen, Dorothy, Stanley, Marjorie, Francis and Gerald. Hubert married Geneva Webb and they had 3 daughters; Leona, Shirley, and Wilma. Ronald married Gladys Littleproud and had 4

children; Allan, Florence, Ernest, and James. In 1943, Cedric married Junie McFarquhar, and they had 3 children; Jeannette, Frank, and Wanda.

In 1940, Grandpa became too frail to farm so they sold their place and moved closer to their daughter. Grannie Dolling was a great knitter and made many mitts and socks. She could play the piano beautifully, and enjoyed playing her lovely big organ. Grandpa's penmanship was something to be admired and not seen in this day and age. When in England, they belonged to the Anglican Church. Grandpa died on April 7, 1948 and Grannie Dolling died 10 years later to the day, on April 7, 1958. They were both buried at the United Church cemetery at Telfordville.

LOUIE AND ROSE GELLERT

by Rose Gellert

Louie was born at Monroe, Washington. In 1928, when he was 7, his parents and the family of 10 children, Martha, Fred, August, Adam, Sam, Albert, Louie, Donald, Eva and Henry, moved to Canada. They lived in Golden Spike and Woodbend districts. A sister Ruth was born in Woodbend. In 1934, they bought a farm from George Hobbs in the Genesee area. Here another brother, Leonard was born.

Louie worked for other farmers when he was not quite 16. In winter he did farm chores for \$10. a month. He worked in Pearson's lumber camp for several winters and in an underground coal mine. He stooked heavy crop for \$1. a day and pitched bundles for 4 to 6 weeks at threshing time. In the spring of 1944, he rented a farm from his brother August (who was working up north) at Ellerslie.

I was born at Calmar. When I was 11, my parents, 3 brothers, Leo, Adolph, Ervin and 1 sister Frieda (Connolly) moved to the Strawberry district.



Louie & Rose Gellert - 1944.

On July 14, 1944, Louie and I were married in St. John's Lutheran church, Telfordville. We lived at Ellerslie for almost a year. In the spring of 1945, we bought a farm from Daniel Miller in the Genesee district. Doug La Rose moved us out with his truck, he was the local trucker at that time. We had 5 milk cows,

2 sows, 9 small pigs, 4 horses and 8 calves. Some of the calves were given to us by dairy farmers at Ellerslie. We also owned a little machinery and not much furniture. The milk cows were our living. Sometimes in winter we only got \$5. a week for cream and this had to buy coal oil, groceries and other household things. Everything that was possible to make, we made. Louie sawed logs for lumber and posts. It was a lot of work clearing land. I picked a lot of wild fruit and canned it as well as meat and all the vegetables possible. I baked my own bread and made butter. I did my own sewing and knitting for the family.

Our first crop on our own farm was wiped out with a terrific hail storm. It rolled and smashed field granaries, broke big trees, hay racks and wagons. We though it was going to take our home, too.

That fall, Louie went to work for a farmer in the Ponoka district, harvesting his crop. Late in the fall we cut some green feed with a binder for the cattle. We got a lot of hail those first years. In 1950, we got another big hail storm with damage 100 per cent. We had a nice piece of new land (breaking) and there was a lovely crop on it. After the storm it was like cut feed pounded into the ground. That fall we sold a lot of our animals and his brothers kept some for us. We moved to Leduc for the winter and Louie worked in the Leduc oil field until spring. Then we moved back to the farm. We bought his dad's farm in 1958, when we also lost half of the crop because of another hail storm. After that it was better as the storms missed us.

Through the years Louie worked on the oil drilling rigs, gas plants and construction. The roads had so many holes that sometimes the farmers would get together and pile a bunch of brush and stones in the holes. In winter snow plows didn't come around much and there were a lot of drifts.

Our business place was Thorsby. It took a good day to get there with horses, wagon or sleigh. It was 18 miles there, but most of our groceries were bought in Genesee store. Every Friday was mail day and the store was full with people. We got to know a lot of people around Genesee and everyone had a good visit. We would hear all the news and get to know about social gatherings in the community. It was a pleasure to go there as long as there was a Genesee store.

In 1966, we built a new home and enjoyed the warmth of it in winter. We are living on the farm and have a family of 5 children. Three girls are married, Elaine (Nikolai), Sharon (Stevenson) and Marilyn (Molzan). Connie is working at a Trust Company as a secretary and Ivan is going to school in Edmonton.

Elaine and Melvin Nikolai are farming south of Thorsby. Melvin is also a welder and works for a company in the city.

Sharon and Ron Stevenson live on an acreage at Millet. Ron is one of the superintendents of Leduc Construction Company.

Marilyn and Marvin Molzan are dairy farmers in the Rolly View district, milking 85 to 90 cows.

The girls are all musical. Sharon was the organist in



Louis and Rose Gellert Family. L. to R. Ivan, Elaine, Sharon, Marilyn and Connie, 1979.

St. John's Lutheran church for 3 years. She taught music lessons in her own home at Canmore and Millet and is teaching at present. Connie was also one of the organists at the church. All the girls sang in choirs at Luther League Glee Clubs, They also sang in Search for Talent and many times duets at weddings for friends and relatives. There was lots of music in our home.

JOE AND EMILY GIBSON

by his daughter

Joe came from Barton-on-Humber, Lincolnshire, England in 1913 to Edmonton and worked for Manning Lumber Co. for a few years.

Joe and Emily came to the Strawberry District in 1918. Joe Gibson, Jack Tupling, and Terrance Connolly all filed homesteads in 1917.

Joe's was in the pines 1 mile south of the ferry. It was called Holburn Ferry, but the true name on the



Joe Gibson and Dad Brewster, about 1950.

papers that Dad had filled out, the years he had to run the Ferry, was "Lamoris Landing".

Joe ran it during the years they boomed logs from Rocky Mountain House to Edmonton. This was very dangerous when the logs were too thick. Joe and daughter Murial were stranded in the middle of the river once for 3 hours in a log jam.

Joe lived on the homestead until 1948. His wife Emily died in 1939. Joe remarried in 1948 and moved to Edmonton. He enjoyed every day of his homestead life even when the going was tough. When the going got tough, he would go back to Manning Lumber Co. for a few bucks for clothes and food.

Joe died at the age of 96 in March 1972. His wife Agnes died in December 1977. His 2 daughters Murial (Mrs. H. Ducholke) and Margaret Gibson reside in Edmonton.

PAUL HALLER

Paul Haller came to Canada from Switzerland in the late 1920's, by boat and then by train west to Stony Plain. His first job was working for a farmer, then going north to the lumber camps.

He married Pearl (Margaret) Huggett November 14, 1941. They lived on the south 30 acres of the Huggett quarter, which they had purchased from Arthur Huggett and bought the SE 18-50-1-W5. They had 3 children; Jacob, Gertrude, and Olivia. Jacob died at an early age and the 2 girls grew up and attended Strawberry School from grades 1 to 8. After this they were bussed to Thorsby for grade 9 and High School. Gertrude graduated in 1963 and took 2 years of secretarial training at Alberta College. She married Terrance William Knull February 18, 1967. (Son of Herman and Molly Knull). They are now residing and working in Edmonton. Olivia finished grade 11 and went on to Nurses Aide School and then worked at the Royal Alex. Hospital in Edmonton. She married Emil Richter, from Tomahawk, Alberta on April 1, 1967. (Pearl Haller passed away September 7, 1967.) Emil and Olivia purchased the home farm and took up farming in the spring of 1968. Paul later married, the store keeper, Bessie Meisner from Holburn on March 26, 1969. They reside in Stony Plain.

Paul, with daughter Gertrude, made his first trip back to Switzerland the summer of 1966. Finding many changes in the homeland he again went back later with wife Bessie, Gertrude and Terry. Since then he has made 2 more trips back to Switzerland.

DEMETRO HARWOYLOSKI

Demetro Harwoyloski was born on November 6, 1902 in Austria. He came to Canada on March 15, 1927 from the village of Krasney, Austria.

He is married and his wife Mogda Harwoyloski, daughter Anne and son-in-law along with 3 grandchildren live near the Russian border.

After coming to Canada Demetro worked at many different jobs for people before settling down on a farm with a friend Romeo Mayo in the Strawberry district. They both farmed together for many years. After his friend Romeo had passed away, the farm was sold and Demetro lived with several families in the district. He is presently living with some friends in the Thorsby district.

HICKS, GEORGE AND KATHLEEN

By Clifford Libby (step-son of George)

In the spring of 1926 the Hicks's moved to the Strawberry District and took up residence on the Snider place which was on the north side of the Strawberry Creek close to where it runs into the Saskatchewan River. Quite a few families used this place as a temporary place to live while getting established on a place of their own. My grandparents Mr. and Mrs. William Dolling and my uncles Hubert, Ronald and Cedric had moved to the district 2 years before and had taken up farms.

During the next 2 years Dad worked out and between jobs, cut and sawed logs into lumber to build a house on the S.E. of 17-50-1-W5 which they had bought. In 1928 the house was built and we moved in and that was to be our home. Dad continued to work for others to supplement the income until he could get enough land cleared and stock accumulated to make a living there. Later they bought the quarter across the road south for pasture and eventually that was cleared and broken up too.

My sisters and I grew up here and went to school at the Strawberry school. Kathleen and Dorothy finished their High School at Thorsby. Kathleen went to Edmonton to work and later married John Barclay who operated a Tinsmith Shop there. Later they moved to Vancouver. John died there and Kathleen still lives there. Dorothy married Howard Awberry and after living for some time in Thorsby and Morinville, they made their home in Edmonton. Howard worked for the C.N.R. as a chef. Howard passed away and Dorothy still makes her home here and teaches school.

After the second World War, in which she served as an X-Ray technician, my mother began teaching school. She taught in Strawberry, Genesee, Lindale and at the Warburg Hutterite Colony. After a lengthy illness, Dad died in November 1960. Mother lived on at the farm after she retired from teaching until 1973 at which time she sold the farm and moved to Edmonton where she presently resides.

GEORGE AND OLGA KIRCHNER

narrated by son, written by a granddaughter

George Kirchner, at the age of eighteen, married Olga Gesselle, sixteen, in Germany, and they became parents of seven sons and one daughter. Reinhold born Aug. 5, 1905, Wanda, Feb. 17, 1911, Rudolf, April 12, 1913, Albert, Oct. 1914. Richard and another son (name unknown) both died in infancy, Garry, Oct. 4, 1924, and Bruno Feb. 9, 1926. George worked in Germany as a dynamite foreman.



Taken in 1925 in Germany. L. to R. Rudolf, Father George, Wanda, Reinhold, Mother Olga and Albert.

In 1926 Reinhold, the oldest son, made his way over to Canada, where he found employment in Leduc. In April of the following year George and his family also ventured over to Canada from Ekerton, Germany. They landed in Halifax and by train they travelled to the Calmar district, where they rented a farm yard and house. George and his older sons went out working to provide for the family. On March 24, 1928, George and Olga's daughter, Wanda, passed away at the age of seventeen. A short time after, George moved his family to the Thorsby district and rented a farm from Fred Gunsch. Here they were reunited with their son Reinhold. In the fall of 1929 George and his two sons, Reinhold and Rudolf, went to Luseland, Sask. for four weeks, working as a threshing crew. When they returned home, they had earned enough money to purchase a quarter of land in Huggett, where they made their next home.

Here, on this land, George and his family worked together building their log house. The logs were cut down by hand and dragged some distance by two horses and some logs were even carried by hand to the building site. After long hard months of toil, they cleared enough land to farm.

At threshing time they were helped by Ted Schubert, Arthur Huggett and Geoge Lucas and in turn they helped each neighbor.

The family attended the Lutheran Church at Telfordville. Albert, Garry, and Bruno attended the Strawberry School. Reinhold and Rudolf had obtained their schooling in Germany.

In 1933, their first son, Reinhold, was married to



L. to R. Olga Kirchner, Ted Schubert, George Kirchner.

Josephine Schmidt and they purchased a farm.

George fell ill at an early age. He was cared for by Dr. Hankin. After two years of illness he passed away on Jan. 6, 1939, at the age of 54. He was buried in the Lutheran Cemetery by Rev. C. Wulf. A later year Albert and Garry left home to find employment, while Rudolf and Bruno remained on the farm with their mother, Olga.

In 1954, on the 21st of March, Olga passed away and was laid to rest beside her husband.



L. to R. Top Row: Josephine Kirchner, Olga Kirchner, Rudolf Kirchner, Donald Kirchner, Reinhold Kirchner. L. to R. Bottom Row: Doreen Kirchner, Gordon Kirchner, Douglas Kirchner.

Descendants of George and Olga Kirchner

Reinhold - Born: Aug. 5, 1905; Married: Josephine Schmidt, Oct. 24, 1933.

Children: Donald - Born: April 1, 1935; Married: Doreen Barager, June 6, 1957. Their children: Linda, Murry, Wade.

Gordon - Born: Nov. 3, 1936; Married: Sylvia Rylander, Nov. 20, 1957. Their children: Jeffery, Jody, Pamela, Patricia.

Doreen - Born: Nov. 3, 1937. Married: Art Kivitt, July 18, 1956. Their children: Lorn, Kathy, Calleen.

Douglas - Born: Jan. 10, 1946. Married: Audry Lindo, June 1969.

Their children: Nicole, Marcel

Joy - Born July 11, 1953. Married: Garry Marion, Apr. 26, 1974.

Wanda - Born: Feb. 7, 1911; Died: March 24, 1928. Rudolf - Born: April 12, 1913; Married: Wanda Nicht.

Children: Waldemar and Helmut.

Albert - Born: Oct. 1914; Married: Ruth Geotzinger Children: Wayne - Born: Nov. 2, 1949; Karne -Born: June 18, 1955, Married: Kelvin Dekker, Aug. 19, 1978.

Richard and other son (name unknown) passed away. Garry - Born: Oct. 4, 1924 Married: Lena Henkel, Jan. 18, 1946.

Children: Barbara - Born: June 17, 1947; Married: Bill Smith, June 1, 1974.

Marlene - Born: Feb. 2, 1951; Married: Sam Kobeluck, July 30, 1971. Their children: Pamela, Shelley.

Bruno - born: Feb. 9, 1926; Married: Rena Yanke, July 26, 1956.

Children: Carol - Born: July 10, 1958; Married Norman Ohrn, July 22, 1978.

Kenneth - born: Aug. 28, 1961.

JOSEPH AND HARRIET LA ROSE

Submitted by Mrs. Purvis Leeder

Joe and Harriet La Rose and family lived on a farm (S.E. 20-50-1 W5) north of Thorsby in the Strawberry District for 16 years. They were part of the Prairie Immigration people from Southern Alberta (Youngstown) whom the government helped move out of the dried out areas. They arrived at Rainier in 1922, but found another farm more to their liking in the Strawberry School District, so moved there in 1924. They had three children - Marion, Douglas, and Edwin.

Dad was very community-minded, and it wasn't very long till they had card parties going during the winter in various homes. After Strawberry School burned down in 1931, and the new school was to be built two miles east, the district formed a society and purchased the old school grounds for a community



Joe LaRose in garden at Thorsby.



Mrs. Joe LaRose.

hall to be built on.

When the hall was built, Dad went to the University of Alberta Extension Department, to see about getting a projector and films to have shows for the children. He then had film shows in the hall and various other places once a month. They were mostly educational films, and he had a contract to show them in other schools - Telfordville, Portview, Avon Moor, Fruitland, St. Francis, and Warburg.

Then, he really got involved. This was, of course, silent movies. The projector had to be turned by hand, and he always took someone with him to help, and of course to rewind the films after each showing.

He had an auction sale in 1940, left the farm, and moved into Thorsby where he purchased the Thorsby Hall. He got a bigger projector (electric so he wouldn't have to turn it by hand), and went into the field of film-showing every week. He travelled to Drayton Valley, Evansburg, and Holborn Hall, as well as managing the hall in Thorsby.

Mother started a library in the hall in connection with the University Extension Library, and books were exchanged every month. This was Thorsby's first library.

In 1942, Mother passed away. Dad continued until 1944. Then he had an auction sale in the hall, and moved to Edmonton. Mr. John Powlik purchased the hall. Dad married again, and travelled to B.C. and back. He eventually moved back to Mission, B.C. wher he resided until his death in 1966.

Marion married Purvis Leeder in 1929. They lived on his farm a mile east of the home place, where they still reside after raising a family of ten children. They are all married and scattered around the area, except for George who lives at Maple Ridge, B.C., and Ben, who farms and lives at home.

Douglas had started a trucking business while living at home. He married Catherine Muldoon in 1938. They lived in a house on an acreage on top of the Crishop draw, then moved their house to Telfordville



Strawberry Baseball team: Taken at Holborn hall about 1945-46. L. to R. Cedric Dolling, Don MacLean, Archie MacLean, Abe Neufeld, Mryna Neufeld, Paul Kruger, Douglas LaRose, Sam Sommer, Andy Meditsky.

on the south side of the bridge - where Bruno Kirchner lived. He purchased a second truck, and Jock Bentley went into business with him. Russell Joblinski and Abe Neufelt were also drivers. He moved into Edmonton after getting work on the Alaska Highway, and was killed in a highway accident in 1953. His wife Catherine was left to raise their four children - Joyce, Jim, Carrol, and Russell. After the children married, she remarried and now lives in Kitimat, B.C.

Edwin worked at various jobs around the district, then went to Edmonton where he worked at Macleods. He also worked in Vegreville for the Macleod store. During the war, he drove trucks up to Norman Wells in the new oil fields. He married Jean Gilliland in 1947 and started working for the city of Edmonton, and is still driving trucks for the city.

FREDRICK JAMES LEEDER

by Fred Leeder

On Feb. 25, 1952 I was born to Raymond and Anne Leeder of Strawberry District. I was their second child.

I started school in Strawberry, taking grades 1 through 4, then attended Thorsby school, grades 5 through 10. I lost my father in August, 1964, when I was 12.



Dorothy & Fred Leeder's wedding.
L. to R. Cheryl Leeder, Joyce Mudry, Betty Ollenberg, bride & groom,
Andy Ollenberg, Bernard Brewster and Douglas Wurban.

On July 28, 1973 I married Dorothy Nancy Ann Wurban, only daughter of John and Angela Wurban. Dorothy had also attended Thorsby school grades 1 through 10. The first 4 months of our marriage, we lived in the town of Thorsby. We didn't like town living so in Nov., 1973 we found a house on the farm-"The Schubert Place". We made our home there until Sept. 1976 when we moved to our own farm N.E. 18-50-1-W5. This quarter of land was homesteaded by



Fred Leeder family. L. to R. Dorothy, Fred with baby Henry.



Tracy and Angela Leeder.

my grandfather, the late Arthur James Huggett, who filed on the land in 1906 and lived there until his passing in June of 1955.

Now we have 3 beautiful children; Angela Ann born Jan. 23, 1974, Tracy Ophelia born Jan. 9, 1976 and Henry Raymond born Apr. 1, 1978.

I am still employed at Bilar's Garage in Thorsby and have my certificate in Motor Mechanics and do a little farming in my spare time.

PURVIS LEEDER HISTORY

by Marion LaRose Leeder

Purvis and I were married October 30, 1929 at the home of the Rev. H.G. Rice in Edmonton.

Our first trip into Thorsby was before Christmas 1929, when we drove a team and jumper in to get groceries at the Red and White store. Mr. Del Cooper was the proprietor at that time.

Our post office was "Huggett" run by Mrs. A. Huggett, and her father-in-law Mr. James Huggett was the first postmaster. The mail at that time came from Leduc by way of Calmar and Telfordville, and Mr. Huggett brought it from Telfordville.

By the time our children started school, the first school had burned down and a new one was built one mile east. Our schools, Strawberry and Fruitland were moved east to make room for the Avon Moor school to the west. We were still $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from school.

Purvis farmed only one quarter of land (N.E. 16-50-1 W5) but we had 3 cows to start with, chickens, a sow and 4 horses. We shipped cream, but when there wasn't enough to ship we churned it and made butter to sell to help pay for our groceries.

In the summer of 1930, Purvis's brother Mason

took a truck load of wheat to Thorsby to the Wheat Pool Elevator and got 19 cents a bushel for it.

He purchased twine for the binder, got some welding done and a few groceries for home. Prices had dropped from \$1.00 the previous fall.

Purvis applied for relief and got credit for 100 lbs. of flour from Alan MacDonald's Flour Mill in Thorsby and \$5.00 for groceries at the store. To pay it back, he and his team worked for 25 cents an hour on road work.

We used horses for our farm work until Purvis bought a Twin City 1928 tractor, from Walter Sommers in 1947 for breaking land. In 1953 he bought a Case model R. 1945 tractor, in Stony Plain for field work, thus ending our work for horses.



Purvis's Twin City tractor.

My father owned a threshing machine and he threshed in the district with all the neighbors exchanging work. When he sold the farm, Archie MacLean got a threshing machine, then Albert Connolly, and later, Rudolph Kirchner. Gradually they all gave way to combines.

Mrs. Maud Huggett passed away in 1958 and the post office was closed, so we went to Telfordville for our mail. Meanwhile the cream truck had been leaving cheques and cream cans at the Telfordville store so we had been buying groceries and picking up mail there. The mail route was established in 1961 and Mr. Andrew Blomquist was the first mailman, then Mr. Fred Van Alstyne and others, till now we are getting mail delivered 3 times a week.

We finally got power in 1968 and had to remodel our house to make room for a refrigerator, deep freeze, electric stove, dryer and other appliances. The underground telephone system was put in here the same year.

Many are the stories we could tell but I'm sure this is enough. We've had a good life.

The Leeder family tree is thus:

Maternal great grandparents, John Montgomery 1803 - 1867 married Anne Taylor 1828 - 1905. Their daughter Janet Montgomery 1850 - 1907 married Robert Kirk 1875 - 1927. Their daughter Harriet Maud Kirk 1885 - 1942 was my mother. Carolyn Mills

1821 - 1876 married Daniel LaRose 1881-1909. Isobel Montgomery married Nineva LaRose Dec. 22, 1879. Their son Joseph Nineva 1885 - 1966 married Harriet M. Kirk on Dec. 24, 1909.

I, Marion Kirk LaRose was born in 1911. Paternal grandparents, Electra Cross married Duncan Reed. Their daughter Bessie Reed married Benjamin Leeder who was the son of Ellen Inneson and William Leeder. The son of this former couple became my husband. Purvis Edgar Leeder and he was born in 1903. Our first residence was the farm and our children are. Edgar Glen, born August 1, 1930, married to Helen Bystrowski. Jean Gertrude, born July 20, 1931 married Richard Lyne. Benjamin Joseph, born October 29, 1932. Hazel Laura, born December 13, 1933 married Bernhard Friesen. Gladys Maud, born April 7, 1935 married Royce Paul. Myrtle Ruth, both July 26, 1936 married Nickolas Kuzz. Blanch Bessie, born February 18, 1938 married Douglas Mitchel. Hubert William, born July 30, 1939 married Doreen Blize. Robert Edwin, born November 22, 1940 married Joan Cunningham. George Douglas, born July 25, 1942 married Loretta Hamel. We have 31 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren as of 1978.

THE LIBBYS

by Clifford Libby

Julia Meigal and I were married in Nov. 1937. We worked out until the fall of 1939 and then moved into the house on the Jim Van Alstyne farm north of Telfordville. We started doing custom work which consisted of grinding, sawing, breaking land, and doing field work. In the fall of 1940 we moved to the corner 2½ miles north of Telfordville, leased 3 acres in the corner and built a chop mill. We bought a house in Norbuck, 7 miles south of Breton, and moved it to the corner. Douglas La Rose had the local trucking business at that time and he hauled it for us. We operated the chop mill until 1947 and then sold it to Lester Johnson. He moved it ½ mile south and operated it there for some time. We gradually quit breaking and plowing but did custom harvesting until 1965.

In 1943 we rented the south half of 13-50-2 W5 from my uncle Hube Dolling and started farming. We also rented the NW 12-50-2 W5 from my grandmother, Mrs. Dolling, and later bought all three quarters. In 1945 we bought the Lake place, farmed it one year, and sold it to Walter Brewster.

By this time we had a family of two girls, Marjorie and Charleia. Connie came along in 1949 and Gloria made her appearance in 1954.

Much of our land was still in bush when we got it, so we had to get it cleared. Eddie Roth cut some of the bush and we piled it and took the large trees out by hand. Later we had Wally Mertz clear some more. The last piece of bush was cleared by John Hakstol and



Taken at Jim VanAlstyne house - 1939. Mrs. Kathleen Hicks, William Dolling, Mrs. Ada Dolling, Marjorie Libby in front.

rototilled by Harold Brod and this required a lot less hand labor.

In 1951 we built a new house and in the spring of 1954 we, along with most farmers in the area, were hooked up to Calgary Power which made available every modern convenience. In 1963 we started a hog house which, when it was completed, included automatic heating, ventilation, water, and a liquid manure facility. We raised a lot of hogs and also raised beef cattle, generally feeder stock.



Clifford Libby on combine, Walter Brewster on truck.



Clifford Libby family. Connie, Marjorie, Mrs. Julia Libby, Clifford, Charlia, Gloria. Taken in 1977.

The three older girls started their schooling in Avon Moor. They all went on to Thorsby and finished their high school there. Marjorie went on the first school bus in the area. It was operated by Eddie Alton. Our girls are all married and we have 6 grandchildren. David and Marjorie Langevin live at present in Vancouver, B.C. Ronald and Charlcia Maday, Richard and Connie Zolkiewski, Bernie and Gloria Shukalek all live in Edmonton.

In 1973 we sold our farm to Mr. and Mrs. Otto Newman from Chinook, Montana, as we wanted to take life a little easier.

THE SAM LUNDE FAMILY

by daughter Mrs. Karlene (Lunde) Willis

My parents were born in Norway. Father - Nov.

4, 1886. Mother - June 17, 1883.

They were married on Dec. 29, 1907 at Sandefjord, Norway in the Lutheran Church that Mother was baptized and confirmed in. Two sons were born to them in Norway; Erling Arthur, June 2, 1908 and Ole Sigurd, Oct. 22, 1909. In 1909 they decided to immigrate to Canada. Father came out to Winnipeg in 1909 and Mother came in July, 1910 with the 2 boys. They lived in Winnipeg for a year, then moved west to Niton, Alberta and Carrot Creek where a third son was born, Samuel Gustav, Nov. 10, 1911. Father worked on the railroad grades around that area. They moved to the Stony Plain district and a fourth son was born, Wilhelm Harold, Dec. 15, 1914. Father still worked out and away from home. On Aug. 31, 1916, I (Karlene) was born in the Holborn district. By this time Mother decided she'd done enough moving, so Father homesteaded in the Strawberry district on the NW 24-50-2-W5 in 1917 and they moved onto it in Feb. 1918 into a little log house which they'd put up. One year later on Feb. 10, 1919, a fifth son was born, Karl Ludwig. Two daughters were born on the homestead, Ella Dorthea on June 13, 1920 and Minnie Christina on Dec. 20, 1922. Mother always called her last 3 children her

We all attended the old Strawberry School until it burned down. Karl, Ella and Minnie finished school at Avon Moore

Erling married Mary Brewster in 1940. They have 4 children, Lorraine, David, Agnes and Douglas. Erling is still farming in the Telfordville district.

Ole married Mary Morrison, and they have no children. They spend their summers in the Yukon working their gold claim, and winters at their home in Whiterock, B.C.

Gus married Martha DeBloc and had no children. Gus homesteaded in the Carnwood district and resided there all his life. He passed away from cancer of the pancreas in May, 1977.

Wilhelm took after Mother's people and went to sea working on freighters. He was lost at sea in Dec.

1939.

I (Karlene) worked out until I married Thomas Wigston in Apr. 1939. We had 2 sons, Thomas and Samuel. We were divorced in 1951. I immigrated to the States in Aug. 1956 and remarried while there. I returned to Canada in June, 1967 and at present am working at Kananaskis Park.

Karl joined the Canadian Army and then transferred to the Airforce. He moved to Vancouver, B.C. after the war where he married Catherine Bright in Sept. 1951. They have 2 children, Kendra Jane and Ronald. They immigrated to California in 1958 and are still residing there.

Ella took a beauty course in 1939 in Edmonton and worked at that, later going into office work. She

also went to Ontario and worked in a factory during the war. She returned west after the war to Vancouver, then in 1946 went to Norway with Mother and Father. She married Bert Engstrom in Chicago in Sept. 1947. They have 1 daughter Karen. Bert is retired and they live at Tower, Minnesota.

Minnie took a stenographer course in 1940 and worked for Aircraft Repair in Edmonton. She then went to Whitehorse and worked for U.S. Army. After the war she went to Dawson City, Yukon Terr. for 3 years. She immigrated to the States in 1956 and returned to Canada in June, 1967, and at present is working in the Kananaskis Park.

Father passed away in May, 1973 and Mother passed away in Nov. 1976; both are buried at Telfordville United Church cemetery. Gustav was cremated and a Memorial Service was held for both my brothers, Gustav and Wilhelm on Nov. 12, 1977 at Telfordville United Church.

MR. AND MRS. ALLAN MACLEAN

submitted by Mrs. Archie MacLean

Allan MacLean was born in Inverness County, Nova Scotia on May 24, 1872. He was one of a family of 7 children born to Archibald and Jessie MacLean (nee MacLean), whose ancestors came to Canada from the Isle of Rum and Isle of Muck in Scotland.

His early education was obtained in Nova Scotia prior to taking a course in architecture in Boston, Mass. He worked as a salesman for his uncle and worked on the railroad with a wheelbarrow. He also was employed as a night watchman at a gold mine smelter in Colorado.

He returned to Nova Scotia a few years later where he bought a sawmill and did custom work for residents of that area and others. On December 14, 1907 he married Flora Annie Jane Campbell, only daughter of Edward and Annie Campbell (nee MacQuarrie) of Scotsville, Cape Breton. They had a family of 3 children, Jessie Margaret, Annie Maria and Archie Donald.

In due time the sawmill was disposed of and the MacLean family devoted their time to farming operations. The farm was sold and an auction sale was also conducted to dispose of their possessions in 1922. With the persuasion of Mrs. MacLean's brothers, John and Edward Campbell who had moved to Alberta in earlier years, they also decided to move west.

Mr. and Mrs. MacLean, their 3 children and a young lad by the name of Gordon Kilcup who had made his home with them, packed their belongings and left Nova Scotia by train early in May. The arrived at Stony Plain 7 days later. Mr. MacLean celebrated his 50th birthday enroute while passing through Winnipeg.

When no one was at the station to meet them, they checked in at the hotel at Stony Plain that night. Early

next morning, Mr. MacLean was reading the hotel register and was surprised to note that he had signed his name below that of his brother-in-law. Jack Campbell had come to meet them at an earlier train. When they didn't show up, he had decided to retire for the night. You can be sure that the MacLeans were pleased to see him after their long and tiring trip.

Their destination now was the Strawberry district where the Campbell brothers were located. Mrs. MacLean found the trip to be quite tiring and chose to walk over a section of the road which was known as corduroy. They made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Campbell until they purchased the NW 16-50-1 W5 from Mr. William Ryby. With the farm they acquired some cattle, machinery, and half of the garden.

The first year they lived in a log house on the farm. This was a new experience for the family for they had been accustomed to living in a frame building.

During the winter of 1922-23 lumber was hauled from Benson's mill west of Warburg and from Joe LaRose who lived in the Rainier district. During the summer Mr. MacLean built a two-storey frame house in which they lived for 31 years. It is still in use as a machine shed.

Farming in Alberta was a change from the more populated community at Lake Ainslie. Mrs. MacLean was quite lonesome for some time until she became acquainted with the neighbors. Places of business and stores were as far away as Stony Plain and Leduc.

Only 18 acres of land was in crop that first year, therefore it took considerable time and work to prepare more acreage.

With the help of horses, saws, axes, chains and dynamite the land was gradually cleared of the heavy trees which were limbed and hauled home to be used as firewood. The wood was cut in stove lengths with a buzz saw operated by a stationary steam engine or tractor. At that time the blocks were split by hand. Later a homemade wood splitter was brought into use which made that task a little easier.

After the land had been cleared came the task of breaking it. This took a team of 4 to 6 good horses and a man who was physically as well as mentally strong, to be able to cope with the frustrations of broken traces and whipple trees as the result of breaking a particularly hard piece of land. When the land was finally broken and worked up enough for seeding, came the task of picking the roots. Quite often, this involved the whole family including mother and the children; the younger ones slept nearby in a basket while the work went on.

At harvest time after being cut with a horse drawn binder, the bundles were stooked by hand. Then came threshing time. The separator was hauled from farm to farm by horses and was operated by a stationary engine which Mr. Art Thompson manned. In later years, Mr. Joe LaRose and Mr. Jack Campbell bought machines that were tractor operated. During the winter, the grain was hauled to Stony Plain where the nearest



L. to R. Mr. and Mrs. A. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Allan MacLean.

elevator was located. It took most of the day to make the round trip. Very often 2 men and their teams travelled together so that they could help each other up the river hill. After the grain delivery the horses were stabled and fed at the livery barn while the men ate their dinner at a local restaurant. Following the meal, groceries and other supplies were bought at the Stony Plain stores in readiness for the trip home. On cold days, the men often walked behind the sleigh to keep themselves warm. It was not unusual for the men to pick up some of the school children and give them a ride home.

Homes were heated by wood and coal stoves and heaters. The wood was cut and hauled from the bush and piled in the yard to be cut later. The coal was mined from the creek banks by hand and hauled home with the sleigh and a team of horses. This proved to be a dangerous form of work at times because some of the larger lumps of coal would become dislodged and roll down the hill. It took a nimble person to keep out of the way.

Coal oil lamps provided the lights by which we did our evening chores, our fancy work, knitting, writing, reading, and other things. Meanwhile, the men did their farm chores with the aid of a coal oil lantern.

Our source of refrigeration came from large blocks of ice that were cut from the frozen river and stored in sheds that were filled with sawdust.

Mr. MacLean was a member of the municipal council and was active on the school board. He was also one of the first members of the Strawberry Society. Church services were often held in their home as well as parties and dances.

Mr. MacLean suffered from a heart condition in the latter years of his life, but was able to live at home until shortly before his death in 1962. Mrs. MacLean predeceased him from a sudden illness in 1951.

Their son Archie married Dorothy Reeve in 1936 and is still on the home place. Jessie and Annie married the Robinson brothers, Roy and Lloyd. Roy passed away in 1972.

MR. AND MRS. ARCHIE MACLEAN

by Mrs. Archie MacLean

Archie Donald MacLean was born in Apr. 1913, the third of a family of 2 girls and a boy to Allan and Flora Annie Hane MacLean of Beach Hill, Inverness County, Nova Scotia. Beach Hill is the name of a small community on the shores of Lake Ainslie where many MacLean and Campbell families lived. In May 1922 at the age of 9 years, he and his mother and father, 2 sister, and Gordon Kilcup left the place of his birth to seek greener pastures in Alberta where his 2 uncles Ed and John Campbell had already settled.

He had received his early schooling in Nova Scotia and continued his education at the Strawberry School which was situated where the Strawberry Hall now stands. Due to an accident to his father, his school days were cut short. Hired men were hard to come by so Archie took over most of the farming operations.

During the late twenties he purchased the NE 17-50-1-W5 from the CPR. The annual payment of approximately \$139.00 was a large sum of money in those days which was saved during the year.

After several years of farming with the faithful horses, a tractor was bought and used for the heavier work.

Archie was fond of playing baseball and also took part in many track and field events, one of which took place at the South Side Athletic grounds in Edmonton. He and other young men in the district would often ride horseback for many miles to take part in the sporting events of a picnic.



Mr. and Mrs. Archie MacLean.

On Dec. 1, 1936 Archie married Dorothy Myrtle Reeve. I was born in Edmonton in March, 1915, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Reeve. My dad was employed at different occupations while in the city such as working for the Edmonton City Dairy, conductor on a street car, and was also in real estate. He had been a member of the North West Mounted Police in Saskatchewan prior to moving to Alberta. With this training, we as 'kids' knew better than to step out of line. When we became older we realized that he wasn't such a bad fellow after all. He also served in the Boer War. Mother was the third daughter born to Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Tupling and was named Lily. Both of my parents were born in England.

Brother Gordon, was born in 1918, and sister Ethel in 1921, both at the farm in Sask. where we had moved to, during the first World War. At that time Dad was staying on the farm of his brother Jim who had enlisted and was overseas. When my uncle returned to Canada, Dad bought a farm some 20 miles south of Grenfell which seemed such a long distance to travel by horse and buggy. Very few trips were made, therefore we didn't see too much of our aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The trip to our new farm was an eventful one because Mother was driving a skittish mare hitched to a buggy. Mother was terrified, but followed the hay rack loaded with furniture and drawn by 4 horses. One of the 4 animals decided he had gone far enough and flopped himself down in a slough of water that crossed the road. After a lot of persuasion he got to his feet and continued the rest of the way.

My education began at Beeston School where I finished grade 5. At that time, on an invitation from my grandparents (Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Tupling) I came to Alberta. In the fall of 1927, with Glen Carmichael as the teacher, my school continued at Strawberry School where I took grades 6, 7, and 8. When I left for home in the fall of 1929, Morris Gayfer was the teacher.

The next 2 years, grades 9 and 10 were completed by correspondence under the supervision of a teacher. High schools were too far away, to attend, I either had to ride horseback 12 miles, or board out. Times were hard in the thirties, therefore my schooling came to an end.

I was too young to take any courses and did not have enough education to enroll in anything I chose to do. The neighbors were in need of someone to help out because of illness so that's where I worked for a few months. The senior member of that household was a retired employee of a telephone company and received a pension cheque of \$75.00 every month. What a large sum of money, and you should have seen the groceries and goodies he brought home! Things we didn't see even at Christmas.

We organized a girls softball team and went to all the nearby picnics to play. We were quite lucky in winning many of our games and received a free ticket to the dance plus a new softball for our efforts.

After the death of my uncle, Mr. James Blood of Telfordville, I returned to Alberta in 1933 to help my aunt Mable with the chores. I also spent some time with my grandmother who wasn't too well. She passed away suddenly in 1935. My grandfather left the farm as did my aunt and moved to Edmonton.

Our wedding took place at the MacLean home where Jessie MacLean was married the same day to Roy Robinson. Rev. D.C. McTavish who lived at Calmar was officiating minister. Members of the immediate family and my bridesmaid, Phyllis Oscroft of Edmonton, also Mr. and Mrs. McTavish were guests at the reception which followed the service. Mrs. Geoff Mealing was kind enough to cut flowers from

her chrysanthemum plants for the brides' bouquets. Her husband was the teacher at the Strawberry School at that time.

The wedding dance was held at the Telfordville Hall 2 weeks after the wedding with a local orchestra providing the music. As an added attraction, Mr. Hugh McKinnon played the bagpipes. Incidentally, our 25th anniversary was also held at the Telfordville Hall because the Strawberry Hall burned to the ground that night.

Winter activities included skating, dancing, sleigh riding, and in later years we learned to curl in a rink made of straw bales which the local men constructed. Many evenings were spent in learning the rarin' game and some of the players became very good at it.

We attended several shows with Mr. LaRose who procured films sponsored by the Provincial Film Board. The men took turns cranking the machine. Later a power unit was used to operate the machine and provided lights for the dance which followed the show. People travelled for miles to this event with the music supplied by Ed Simon, Ralph and Bill Tober.

At harvest time, I learned to operate the horsedrawn binder. With 4 horses to handle, as well as all of those levers, some of those sheaves came out in weird shapes. As time went on Archie was able to make stooks that were more regular in shape after I mastered the "art" of making better sheaves. The time came when we acquired a power binder, so we used to take turns riding the binder and the tractor. When it was my turn to drive the tractor, I'm afraid that I left a ragged looking field. That iron horse was just a little different to handle after driving the horses.

Then came the threshing. Archie bought a separator to do our own as well as the crops of our neighbors. Four o'clock in the morning' it was time to get up and feed, water and harness the horses, have breakfast, then oil and grease the machinery and put fuel in the tractor.

While all of this was being done, the women-folk busied themselves with the breakfast preparations then off to the barn to take care of the chores. In the evening the chores were done before the men arrived



Mr. and Mrs. Don MacLean.



Mr. and Mrs. Ross Sargent, (nee Florence MacLean)

for supper. Tables were reset in readiness for the morning meal.

Water was carried from a drilled or hand dug well in the farm yard and heated on the wood-burning stove. We scrubbed our clothes on a washboard and those with 'hard to get out' stains in them were boiled. When the babies arrived this took the place of bleaching the diapers.

Our main source of refrigeration was a water well which was close to the house. After a heavy rain storm it was common to have baby bottles of formula floating around in the water. They had been hung in a pail the night before.

In June 1942, our son Donald was born, He was married in 1967 to Shirley Hamel of Haney, B.C. They have 2 sons, Todd age 7, and Darren age 5. Don is employed in Leduc. Florence arrived Dec. 1948 and is married to Ross Sargent of Mannville. They are both employed in Edmonton.

Don and Florence both received their education at Strawberry and Thorsby High School where they graduated in 1960 and 1966, respectively.

In 1975 we made a trip to Nova Scotia to Archie's birthplace where we visited with many relatives and places he remembered as a boy. The cement foundation of their home is still there as well as other landmarks such as the church where they attended Sunday School and certain trees that stood in their yard.



Todd and Darren MacLean.

We still live on, and farm the home place with Don's help. We attend the Telfordville United Church and are members of the Strawberry Society. In 1942 I began submitting local news to the Western Messenger. Thirty-six years later I try to make weekly contributions to the Representative.

Times have changed over the years with installation of the telephone, Calgary Power, and hopefully natural gas in the near future. With these amenities and larger power machinery, life has become much easier for those of us who are not as young, as well as the younger generation.

ROMEO MAYO

by Theresa McFarquhar Donaldson

Romeo Mayo, of Italian descent, came to live in the Strawberry area (SE 8-50-1 W5) around 1927. He was a bachelor and had no living relatives in the country at that time. He was a small dark complected fellow. He was very good on the mouth organ so he attended all the bridal showers, concerts and dances. He loved to mix water with other ingredients which sometimes turned out to be quite potent.



Romeo Mayo.

One very cold day Romeo called on Dad and Mother on his way home from Thorsby with his one horse sleigh. He wanted mother to cut out a shirt from flour sacking for him to sew by hand. Mother said she would cut it out but no way would she sew it up nor make a shirt for Dad of flour bags. They were used for tea towels, camisoles, or the much talked about bloomers, (before the days of pantie hose) but not for a shirt for Dad. She would leave the country first. Then he conversed about church. Finally, he mentioned church membership or one might go to Hell. Mother told him Jessie, Georgia and myself were members of the Telfordville Church, and that I was in the Junior Choir. There were no Church Christmas concerts, but we enjoyed the concerts at the Fruitland school (Remember Charlie Moeller and Snider passing the clothes basket full of popcorn balls?)

When Rev. Rice was here, in the late '20s, he and mother went into a mission box affair. It was hardly safe to leave one's clothes out overnight, or by morning they would be in the mission box. The fall of 1933 Rev. Rice had a railway car sent out to Thorsby to collect vegetables to send to the dried out prairie. Mother threw herself into the project. There was no Women's Institute or Ladies Aid in the area at that time. She started to load the little steel-wheeled wagon, with Beauty and Midget as the team, and hauled vegetables to Thorsby every day. The evening of the second day came and Mr. Mayo called in. He wanted help, as he had a good garden and treated it with loving care. Any frosty evening in August he would be up tending his many fires to ward off the frost. He took his load in a Bennett wagon pulled by one horse. Mother, with her own outfit, met him at the gate the next morning with a load.

When I was married he gave me a doily he had brought back from Italy. He also brought Mrs. Dolling a silk scarf. He became quite famous for his rocking chair gifts. In later years he moved to a house near the Saskatchewan River, north of Huggett Post Office. Mr. Dick Benson attended to his affairs while he was in the Royal Alex Hospital, Edmonton. A relative came and looked after his funeral and estate.

THE GEORGE AND JUNE McFARQUHAR STORY

By Theresa McFarquhar Donaldson

Roderick MacFarquhar of Cullicudden, Scotland, died June, 1885. At once, my father, George, realized that if he was to be a farmer he must find land away from Scotland, as Scottish law protected the oldest son and Dad was the second son of a family of 7 boys and 3 girls.

As my father's uncles had sailed for America in 1849, it was only natural that my grandmother wanted her son to join them. The previous group had sailed for America with a cargo of sheep and dogs by way of the Horn some years before, and were well settled in Oregon. Instead of going by ship around the Horn, my father arrived by ship in New York and crossed the continent by train. It was June 14, 1892 when he left New York for Portland, Oregon, and he was 21 years old.

After working for his uncles a few years, he started farming and shipping milk to the local cheese factory near Balston, Oregon. On Oct. 19, 1898 he married my mother June Lebold, whose grandparents had arrived in the area by covered wagon. The wedding took place in the parlour of the Yamhill Hotel, McMinnville, Oregon and was followed by a honeymoon to Portland. On their honeymoon, they purchased a White sewing machine, a large heavy range, and an oak table which had a unique history. This table had been in the Chicago fire, and

unfortunately had 1 leg burnt. As a result, the table leg had been replaced with another, and thereafter was referred to as the "odd-legged table". One very special wedding gift was a glass serving set consisting of the cream and sugar set, butter dish, and spoon holder. This set was used every Sunday and on special occasions while my parents lived on the Strawberry.

In Dec. 1900 Jessie, their first daughter, was born in their home at Balston, Oregon. When she was nearly 3 years old, Dad's 4 brothers came to join him from Scotland. Thus, in Dec. 1904, 3 of the brothers moved to Calgary taking up homesteads 25 miles north of Cochrane, and 25 miles west of Carstairs. My father and his brother Jim remained in Oregon. Jim married a wealthy maiden lady and became an American citizen in 1904. Dad, Mother, and Jessie joined the brothers in Canada in Mar. 1905 but decided to live in Edmonton, rather than Calgary.

In their Edmonton home, their second daughter Georgia was born on Nov. 22, 1905. On this day there was another special event—with most everyone being out to meet the new Grand Trunk train. This was the first train to come into North Edmonton, as prior to this the CPR trains came just to the South Strathcona station; with all of the freight being hauled by dray over the Low Level Bridge to the centre of Edmonton.

Dad was anxious to obtain his own land, which had to be rock free, as he had experienced great difficulties with rough terrain in Scotland. Their Edmonton friends, the Blackwoods, had moved west of Leduc, so Father was naturally guided to this area. He found a homestead on the north banks of the Strawberry Creek, 2 miles east of the Telfordville Post Office, the N.E. ½ 6-50-1-W5 and lived there from Aug. 9, 1906 until Aug. 9, 1946.



First homestead built by George McFarquhar in 1908.

Dad moved all of the household furnishings as well as his full line of farm machinery, which included a McCormick Binder, a steel walking plow, harrows, grass seeder, disk, haying equipment such as slings that pulled the hay on the stack by block, rope and horse power, the grain sacks, mole traps, scythe, bird cage and garden machinery. Various plants included strawberries, raspberries, ribbon grass and Sweet Mary. One very important asset was a big black iron pot to heat water — which was used for everything from scalding pigs and making soap to providing bath

water. Another prized possession was the spring wagon, similar to a democrat only heavier and with springs under the box. While the homestead house was being finished the family lived in a large tent near the Telfordville Post Office.

Dad worked with the builder of the Toronto Bank (now known as the TD Bank) on Jasper Avenue. As a result, he obtained a cedar and glass door and solid wood-framed windows for our new home. The homestead house was of log, plastered with white cement. The roof was slightly gabled and covered with tar paper. What a happy day when rubberoid came on the market for tar paper could catch fire from stove sparks. The floor of our home was of wide plank boards. In 1912 Mother got inlaid linoleum from Eaton's for the kitchen floor.

Grace was said at all meals, and all members were expected to appear "washed and hair combed". We enjoyed Blue Ribbon tea at dinner and supper, and this was taken from a tea can that sat on the stove for 77 years. This "treasure" was taken in a robbery of the farm house a few years ago.

The living room had linoleum of a popular big red rose pattern, and a big round heater provided warmth. The furnishings consisted of a horse hair couch, rocking chairs, the "Chicago" table, a piano, hanging lamps and writing desks.

The 2 bedrooms were very comfortable with the beds being well-made with wool mattresses, American white cotton sheets, and colourful patchwork quilts.

In 1907 Dad built a barn for our horses, which were a breed of their own and very dear to our hearts. The CPR brought carloads of Calgary-raised horses to Edmonton — many of these were known as "cayuses". Dad bought a buckskin gelding named Pinto and a little mare (Alberta) that was brown with a black strip down her back. They were a mighty little team. Down through the years Alberta's colts and grandcolts were famous for their uniqueness.

I was born on Sept. 19, 1907 and Mrs. Brown, who was visiting her daughter, Mrs. Gamsby, was Mother's midwife.

1908 and 1909 were years of social gatherings, and hard work to produce good crops and gardens. The addition of the Brown Leghorn chickens and black pigs meant even more responsibility for the family. In the fall Dad killed and dressed the pigs as he knew of many Edmonton people who would buy chickens, saltless butter and pork. Meat was government inspected, and, in this case, Dr. Swail had that responsibility.

Aunt Bella, Dad's youngest sister, came from Scotland and stayed with us for a few months. She spent much of her time teaching reading and writing to Jessie and Georgia as there were no schools in the Strawberry area. Many people felt that children should not be taught until they attended a formal school setting, but Aunt Bella was used to seeing very young children go to school in Scotland so she quickly introduced her way.

In Feb. 1910 Mother's only brother died in Oregon so we travelled by way of the CPR to the funeral. While we were away Arthur and Maude Huggett, with their daughter Pearl, looked after our chores.

1910 was the year for the 1 week church camping excursion to Pigeon Lake, near the site of the present Rundle Mission. Rev. Whiddon arranged for 2 tents, 1 for the ladies and 1 for the men. Unfortunately a bear decided to pay a call on the ladies and you can appreciate the commotion. To supply everyone with food, games, books, matches was no easy job and this event turned out to be something never attempted again.

In 1911 we all came down with the measles, with Mother becoming extremely ill in Mar. Mr. Adams came to visit and upon arriving, went 5½ miles back home for some honey as he felt it would help our cough. The Adams were from the United States and were very talented people. They had a well organized home and both were excellent musicians, Mr. Adams having studied voice. Dad journeyed 25 miles to Leduc to see Dr. Woods about how to care for us, while we were ill. Dr. Woods was unable to give any more information than what was mentioned in the Dr. Kellogg Medical Book. The Minister called at the gate to see if we were dead or alive. A few weeks later 2 men drove into the yard all muffled up in fur robes. One man was the Health Inspector and the other was the livery man, who owned the team. Dad was away at the time as he was secretary of Local Improvements. The Inspector told us to run over to the neighbors as he was going to fumigate our house, so Mother, who loved Canadian winters, buttoned up the leggings which went over our felt boots, donned our fur caps, collars and heavy coats, and over we went to the Saunders. Half way there we realized we had forgotten the canary — so returned for it. When the men had finished fumigating the house they came over to let us know. We returned home about 10 p.m. and the house was cold and smelling of fumes. The canary never sang again . . .

In July of that year, a happy wedding was held at the Gamsby home when Miss Emily Brown became the bride of Mr. Fred Grant. Before the wedding we watched the creek carefully, should it rain, we might not be able to cross to enjoy the festivities. We were in luck and with great merriment went off to the wedding, with we girls having pansies which we would spread in the bride's path as she left for her new home in Telfordville.

In 1912 Rev. J. A. MacMillan was the Minister and boarded at the Littleproud home. John Knox, the Presbyterian horse provided by the church for the minister's use, got lost in the big trees to the east, and days were spent by all looking for a trace of John. Stories were told about how horses with a halter on could get hung up, and all of us children had many bad dreams about John's fate. John was later found standing in the corral at home.

1912 brought Uncle Jim and Aunt Annie up from Oregon. Mother met them in Leduc and they went on to Edmonton to see a hockey game. Although Uncle Jim had never seen a hockey game, he became quite an authority on the sport. Aunt Annie almost froze to death so Uncle Jim bought her skeins of black wool to knit hip length stockings. While here, she also bought 2 suits of fine wool underwear — Stanfield make.

In 1913 we purchased a democrat and our Grandmother came for a visit. Reverend Smith brought his Scottish bride to visit for 2 weeks. It seemed appropriate at that time to go to Edmonton and have a grouppicture taken. Maud Van Alstyne and Mother were busy making a new dress for Mother and a fashionable hobble skirt for Maud. In Edmonton we tented near the Saskatchewan River to watch the building of the High Level Bridge. We enjoyed the city excitement and seeing ladies boarding street cars in their very restricting skirts. At the same time, we realized that time was changing things. The Saunders were moving away, so were the Crosses, the Crishops, and the Gamsbys. Mr. Gamsby was a photographer and was going to Spokane, Washington. Jim Bell of the South Side Meat Market bought the Saunders' place to run cattle on, but this venture proved unsuccessful, and my Father bought this neighboring farm. Many changes were imminent: The Telfordville Store opened, the Post Office moved to the Breton Store.

Christmas 1913 was especially exciting as on Dec. 27, June and Jean were born. Mother had not felt well all fall so in early Dec. they drove to Leduc to see Dr. Woods. Dad went into the office to make an appointment, but Dr. Woods said he would come to their room at the Waldorf Hotel. This he did, and they talked about the west country and his brother's homestead near the Warburg Coal Mine. The conversation eventually came around to Mother's condition whereby Dr. Woods stated that having a baby was nothing - especially when it was one's fourth child. So that was the finish of Dr. Woods as far as the baby business was concerned. When Mother's delivery time came, Dad saddled 2 horses and Jessie rode 21/2 miles to get Mrs. Huggett, who had been engaged as midwife. We 3 girls were shocked when Dad showed us the 2 little babies the next morning. Junie and Jean were the first twins born west of Leduc.

Quite a number of people came to visit — Fred Van Alstyne, his Mother and girlfriend, Miss Bertha Flodden, the Dunlops, as well as Mrs. MacDonald. All brought goodies, clothes and advice. A member of the Legislature, S.J. Tobin, gave the twins a kindergarten set. The merchants from Stony Plain and Leduc sent gifts, and Aunt Jean in Scotland sent tweeds. The aunts in Oregon sent yards of print and 32 baby dresses, along with a lovely rattan baby carriage.

In Mar. Reverend Smith's wife passed away during childbirth and Dad and Mother were to attend the funeral as Dad was to be a pallbearer. Mrs. Granny Huggett helped Mother take care of the twins at the funeral, and we 3 older girls stayed at home alone.

1915 was a difficult year with us going to Telfordville School and Dad not well. Ralph Dunlop suggested that Jessie attend the Olds School of Agriculture.



Roderick McFarquar Jr. Veteran of Boer War and W.W.I.

Dad had planted Marquis and Durham wheat that year but with a frost in July, many dreams were shattered. In spite of that hardship, Jessie went to Olds. She had smallpox at Christmas and due to the flu missed the next year, but graduated with honours and the Duncan Marshall Award. At home we added more livestock and had a registered Hereford bull "Top Giant" from a Calgary ranch. Dad sold the pigs live, as he couldn't butcher pigs with his injured hand. By this time the Huggett Post Office had closed, as most of the homesteaders had moved. Reverend W.A. Mason came to the area and he was a comfort to all. He had services every 2 weeks and would come from Edmonton by way of the CPR train to Leduc. Taking the mail wagon to Calmar, he would then ride out with his friend, the mail carrier, J. Van Alstyne.

School days provided us with much activity and O.P. Nelson was replaced by George Robinson as School Inspector. The schools in the area were now used 10 months of the year. My sister Georgia was the first to write and pass Grade 8 in the area. Junie and Jean went to the first school in Thorsby, and during their teens went to Edmonton to attend high school.

One teacher, Miss Lucas, was the eldest in a large family from Wetaskiwin. For fun breaks we would sing the many dozens of songs she knew. Over the years, she often sang at the Telfordville Hall.

The war years were extremely difficult, with tremendous hardships, but on Nov. 11, one long ring on the telephone brought the news that the "war was over". This news meant many things; family and friends returning home, and hope for the future. In particular for us, we were looking forward to Uncle Rod being home for Christmas.

As the years passed we enjoyed more conveniences. The phone line that had been in the country since 1914 served well. The CPR station would phone messages for us to deliver all over the district. Billy Breton would phone with local messages. I remember Jessie riding horseback to take a message to Jack Campbell's near Genesee. She left our home at 9 p.m. one moonlight night and it was about 20 below. The message was that the Campbells

should meet the train in Edmonton at 3 p.m. the next day. Jessie returned home in the wee hours of the morning, after a 25 mile ride.;

In the 1920's the LaRoses and Bensons came to live in the Strawberry area. They brought joy and enthusiasm to all of us. We are reminded of Mrs. LaRose when we see the Ladies Home Journal, and Mrs. Benson, when we think of the bridge table. When Junie was married, Douglas La Rose rode a horse 3½ miles with a big bouquet of flowers for the event, and this type of kindness was predominant. The '20's also came with good prices and good crops.

Jessie was teaching at Fruitland and other areas, but at the time permits were not given out. There was resentment against married women teaching, so she went to the University of Alberta and took Household Science. She had an exciting career for those days and worked as a cashier at the Banff Springs Hotel, and later as a telephone operator in San Francisco before she married Ross Cochrane in Vancouver in Oct., 1929. Jessie passed away in 1943 and is buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Edmonton.

Georgia took her high school in Edmonton, and sang in the Knox United Church Choir. She worked in a San Francisco telephone office after marrying Tony Wilson. Both Georgia and Tony are buried in the Telfordville Cemetery. From my early days, I looked forward to working on my own, as Mother wouldn't let us work as hired girls, the obvious move was into Edmonton. My home was the YWCA and I am still a member today. I later went to work at the Banff Springs Hotel Post Office, however, I returned home, spring and fall to help with the crops. This activity was shared by all the daughters over the years. After spending 6 months in California, I worked 2 years in the Peace River Country, then 2 years at Blue River, British Columbia. I married Peter Donaldson on Feb. 17, 1933 in Edmonton and quickly adjusted to the life of a railroader's wife. Iris, our eldest daughter is an



The Pete Donaldson Family. L. to R. Iris, Pete, Theresa & June.

RN, graduating from the University Hospital in Edmonton, the wife of Dr. G.L. Rogers, and proud mother of 4 sons, who are involved in the Swift Current Pipe Band. Peter Lachland, our only son, was the only grandchild to be born at the homestead site. As Mother had expressed the wish for 1 of us girls to

have a baby at the farm, I left Blue River to come home with the secret intention of attending Dr. Conn's clinic in Edmonton. As this was in the depression and the telephone lines had been cut to a minimum, when the labour pains started, the hired boy was sent to phone Dr. Hankin in Thorsby. Once he arrived and found everything progressing satisfactorily, he fell asleep on the floor. He claimed later that his sleep was disturbed by Mother who woke him often to check on our well-being. Meanwhile, the hired boy went to get my sister Junie and her husband Cedric. Lachie arrived, Sept. 11, 1936, safely in his own time, attended by Dr.



Lockie Donaldson and Son at Prince George, B.C. 1962.

Hankin, Grandma McFarquhar and his Aunt Junie. Lachie passed away June 9, 1974, but during his life enjoyed many blessings. His wife Carol, son Kenton, and daughter Leanne live in Vernon, B.C. June Anne, our youngest daughter was born in Kamloops, B.C. and 2 years ago moved home after working in many parts of Canada. She now lives in her own home in Telfordville and works for AES Data Ltd., in Edmonton.

Jean married Judge A.F. Ewing and lived in Edmonton until his death.

In 1926, Dr. McLean told me he was afraid of Mother having cancer. This proved to be true, and in 1929, she had her first radium treatment, given by Drs. Orr and Malcomson in Edmonton. From that point until my Father's death on Dec. 2, 1946, she and my father carried a heavy load that was made bearable by the harmony in their family and home, and the tremendous inner faith that was so representative of early settlers. My Mother passed away on Dec. 28, 1950, and their final home is the Telfordville Cemetery, where there is a memorial to this pioneer couple — a large tombstone and Pulpit Bible in the church.

The original homestead is shared today by their daughters, and from its inception until today, the impact of our heritage is a strong bond for us, our children, and grandchildren.

JEAN McFARQUHAR McINTOSH

By sisters Theresa and June

Jean was one of twin daughters born to Mr. and Mrs. George McFarquhar. She attended schools at

Strawberry and Thorsby where Miss Blades was her teacher. To attain her high school education she attended Garneau and Victoria in Edmonton. While at home she did her share of hauling milk cans to the Thorsby Cheese Factory with a team and wagon.

In 1935 she married the Honorable A.F. Ewing,

Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Jean was possibly one of the best customers the C.P.R. train had into Thorsby. For the next 14 years she became a familiar sight, leaving Thorsby station with her Corgi dog, Skipper, and carrying baskets of goods from the farm. She often came home to help her mother and father on the farm.

Jean spent a lot of time sewing and did fine work. She made dozens of pairs of gauntlets for the Robertson United Church in Edmonton and has sewn up many yards of excellent material. Some of the gowns she made were worn to church conventions, Provincial and Dominion Bar Conventions and other prominent functions.

In 1939, she and her husband were presented to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth when they visited Edmonton on their Royal Tour. Judge Ewing died in 1946 and Jean continued to live in their big house overlooking the Saskatchewan River valley for another 2 years.



Justice Ewing and his wife Jean.

In 1948 she married John George McIntosh in Vancouver, B.C. The ceremony was performed in the Hotel Vancouver with Dr. McLeod officiating. Jim McIntosh and her twin sister June were the attendants.

John McIntosh was an Edmonton boy who became a lawyer. He had served in the R.C.A.F. in the Second World War. They made their home in Victoria where he had a flourishing law firm and was made a member of the Queen's Council. A son John was born to them in 1958 and in 1960 another son named James came into their family by adoption.

When the boys were 6 years old their father died. He is buried in the Telfordville Cemetery. Jean remained single and raised their sons in Victoria. However, many trips were made back to her farm in the Telfordville district and her sons had the opportunity of sharing some of the quieter country life



Jim McIntosh, Jean McIntosh, John McIntosh.

she had known as a child.

In 1978 John is studying Computer Science at the University of British Columbia. James, or Jim as he is

known, enjoys life in the working world.

As a young girl Jean enjoyed poetry and recited at school festivals. She could recite "The Highway Man" and "The Cremation of Sam McGee" in their entirety. She was adept at oil painting and once won a prize at the Edmonton Exhibition.

While attending Thorsby School she was a member of Mrs. Rolston's singing group and one Christmas sang a duet with her sister Junie at the Strawberry School concert. A Thorsby merchant gave presents to the group and she still has her gift from that event.

NORMAN McLARTY

by Theresa McFarquhar Donaldson

Norman McLarty NE 5-50-1 W5, 1927

He was a friend of the Strautman family and came to the country with them. A big, tall American, he appeared to be well learned in world affairs. He travelled all over the area with an axe on his shoulder and was always ready to help friends who needed work done, such as stooking, for a day or two. He saw humor in many things. One day while walking home from Calmar he met a British lady who was picking berries and he remarked to her that a famous American had died on that date. She became quite surprised and said, "Oh dear, I guess I never met him."

Mr. McLarty had a great problem keeping the McFarquhar girls in their right perspective. One day he came to call when Jessie had just returned home from working in San Francisco. She was dressed in navy blue Tricotine suit with a grey crepe de chine blouse. Grey silk stockings and black oxfords completed her ensemble. About an hour later Mr. McLarty decided to take a letter to the Huggett post

office. He had to pass the north field. He saw the binder in our sixty-bushel-to-the-acre wheat field, and stopped to talk to the driver, whom he thought would be my dad George. But to his utter astonishment, who stepped off the binder but Jessie, dressed in blue nurse cloth shirt-waist dress, as immaculate as she had been an hour before in the living room.

Our breaking of the land Mr. McLarty always referred to as "Peeling back the brush". Any place that had been fire killed, Dad would plow through and then we girls would pile the broken brush to burn. This also cut down on running fires. We all had, at the time of Dad's death, walked over every foot of cultivated land many times. We had hauled grain by team and wagon to Leduc, or Stony Plain, with once a week trips with the cart to take cream to Stony Plain or Calmar. Jessie drove four horse teams on the wagon, and we all drove four horse teams, filling in mud holes on the roads with scoop shovels or fresnos.

Mr. McLarty helped build the first Strawberry Hall. Later he had the misfortune to break his leg. When he found he could not live alone, his friends, Mrs. Lulu Johnson and sons, offered him a little cabin on their land, where he later passed away. He was buried in Ontario by his sister.

STORY OF THEO AND MARY MEYER

by Theo Meyer

In 1929, I decided to go to Canada I, Theo, was the youngest of a family of 8 children, (4 boys and 4 girls). My father died when I was 7 months old, which left my mother alone to raise 8 young children. In March, when I was 23, I left Germany on a passenger ship. Entering the North Sea, our ship collided with a cargo ship. We had to go back to Hamburg because our ship was damaged too much. Eight days later I left on the St. Louis arriving 9 days later in Halifax. After days on the train, I arrived in Edmonton with no money left. A couple of days later. I got a job at Jack Campbell's in the Strawberry district. I'll never forget that trip to Jack's farm with his brother Ed. We left Leduc with 2 barrels of gas on a wagon. It was night time when we drove through the Strawberry Creek, I thought it was the end of the world and was sure I would never get out of there again.

I put the crop in at Jack Campbell's and went across the river to McKinnan's farm and worked there for 6 weeks and then went back to Campbell's for harvesting. That fall I worked on Hubert Dollings threshing machine for \$2.00 a day.

That same year I bought the Noah Harman farm, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Telfordville which had 5 acres of cleared land on it. I worked for Sam Lunde that winter at the sawmill. The next fall, I was caretaker at Strawberry School for \$10.00 a month.

After 4 years of bachelorhood, my girlfriend, Mary



Breaking land with Albert Mantei and Ted Meyer.

Eilert, came over from Germany. We got married the same day, on October 20, 1933 in the courthouse in Edmonton. Three people wished us the best for the future, the Judge, the secretary and the interpreter. The next day we left on the bus for Thorsby where it was snowing and blowing. The hotel owner, E.A. Kelly, took us by car to our home. When we came home our spirits were not too high when we discovered that half of the wheat and most of the chickens had been stolen.

The next few years were hard times. Wheat sold for 19¢ a bushel and pigs \$3.00 each. Five head of cattle sold for \$39.50. However, there were enjoyable get togethers with the neighbors.

On December 13th, 1937, we had one more "set back". While we were not at home, our house burned down with all our belongings. With the help of our neighbors, a new house was roughly built and we moved into it by January 2nd.

In 1938, we had a pleasant surprise visit from my sister who came from Germany.



Ted Meyer family, Hans, Inga & Melvin. Front, Mary and Ted Meyer.

As the years went on there were crop failures caused by hailstorms and frost, but with the desire to succeed in farming, things kept progressing till I retired from farming. When retiring in 1970, my youngest son, Melvin, took over the farm.

I recall when I left my home in Germany, that my

mother told me if I ever decided that I wanted to come home, to write her and there would be money waiting for me to return, but I never wrote that letter. It was 40 years after coming to Canada, that I and my wife returned home for a visit and to my sorrow, my only living sister had died shortly before. We visited with my wife's family in East Germany.

Now we enjoy fishing and travelling. When returning home from trips, there is no better place than home, among our family and all our friends.

Hans, our oldest son, has 4 children; Rodney, Brenda, Kerry and Bradley. Inga, our daughter, is married to Lorne Barager and lives in Edmonton. They have 2 daughters, Gail and Peggy. Melvin is married to Bernice Hartfelder and they have 2 children, Melanie and Shawn.

OLIVIA AND EMIL RICHTER

Emil Richter came to the Strawberry District in the Spring of 1968. Emil was born in Jan., 1940 and raised in the Tomahawk area. He helped on the family farm to raise his brothers and sisters who numbered 15. He completed his grade 12 at Tomahawk. He went out to work for the lumber camps, then to Edmonton for Dale Brothers Construction. Moving along he became a backhoe operator for G.C. MacLeod Construction. Later, with a brother becoming a partner, the company was known as Richter - Macleod Construction. He married Olivia Haller on April 1, 1967. After Mrs. Haller's passing in the fall of 1967, Emil and Olivia purchased the family farmstead and took up farming in the spring of 1968. They have 2 children, Karen (1969), and Kelvin (1970). They are engaged mostly in hog farming, and later in the fall of 1976, Emil purchased his own backhoe. Besides farming they take an active part in community activities such as the Red Cross, Church, the Local Hall Board and Square dancing.

LLOYD ROBINSON AND FAMILY

by Annie Robinson

Lloyd Robinson worked on the oil rigs in Turner Valley. Work slowed down and in 1934 he decided to try his luck farther west. He had friends who knew the Dollings at Telfordville so he went to Hubert Dolling's where he worked for the winter.

While at Dolling's, he met Annie MacLean. They enjoyed one another's company and Lloyd decided he was going to make his home in the district.

He rented a quarter of land and went back to Turner Valley where his folks lived. He had machinery and horses there, so he got busy and loaded everything on a hayrack. He hitched his favorite team



Lloyd and Annie and 11 grandchildren.

to the wagon and tied a couple of horses to the back and started out. His brother Roy came through Calgary with him. Lloyd stopped for the night where Calgary Airport is now and Roy went back by bus to Turner Valley.

It took him 9 days to make the trip to the Strawberry district. In the spring of 1934 he bought a quarter of land and built a log barn. He lived in a granary and in the fall his brother Roy came up to look after his stock as Lloyd had to have his appendix removed. When Lloyd came out of the hospital he went back to Turner Valley for a couple of months. Roy and my brother Archie spent their evenings teasing Lloyd's cat. When Lloyd came back, not knowing how smart his cat was, he was sure surprised when getting ready for bed and the cat caught his foot.

He built a house in the summer and we got married on November 7, 1935. Our land had lots of willows and big trees. We ran cattle in the bush. One day my sister-in-law Lulu and I were going for the cows and our little black and white dog went with us. We were walking through the willows when we saw something black and white. We were too close when we noticed it was not our dog, but Mama Skunk and family. We didn't waste any time putting distance between us.



Marie and Herb Wegner and six children, Larry, Corrine, Donald, Timothy, Kenneth and Louise.

Anyway we found the cows and had a good laugh. We worked hard and enjoyed it all.

We have a family of 3. Marie Eileen (Mrs. Herb Wegner) went to school in Strawberry, then Thorsby. She went to McTavish Business College and worked in the city for 4 years then, deciding country life was best, married Herb Wegner and lives on a farm. They have a family of 6; Larry, Corrine, Donald, Timothy, Kenneth, and Louise. Makes their life interesting!





Margueritte and her four children; Kelly, Rita, Kevin and Ronda.

Jack, Marilyn, Tina and Richard Robinson.

Margueritte May went to school in Strawberry, then to Thorsby, and to McTavish Business College. She married Kelvin Zelmer, lived on a farm, and had 4 children - Kelly, Rita, Kevin, and Rhonda. Margueritte works at A.D.A.C. and has a trailer home in Breton.

Jack Roy attended school in Strawberry and then Thorsby. He went to Olds for two seasons and after graduating he stayed on the farm with us, dairying and mixed farming. Jack married Marilyn Sommers and they have 2 children Tena and Richard.

In 1974 they decided they would like a change so now they live on their farm and Jack is working as an electrician.

We stayed in dairying until 1975. We live on the farm and do mostly grain farming. We have 12 grandchildren and enjoy them all.

THE ROY ROBINSON FAMILY

by his wife Jessie

Roy Robinson came up to the Strawberry district from Turner Valley in the fall of 1934. He stayed with



Roy Robinson Family.

his brother until the fall of the next year when he returned to Turner Valley and brought his parents to the Strawberry district.

He lived with them until he married in December 1936. He married Jessie MacLean who came from Inverness, Nova Scotia with her family in the spring of 1923.

Roy bought a farm in the Strawberry district.

They have a family of 4 children; Mary and her family live in Edmonton, Allan and his are in Drayton Valley, Harry's family is in Thorsby, and Floyd and family are in Quesnel, B.C.

Roy and Jessie have 9 grandchildren.

They farmed and Roy did carpenter work until the time of his death in July 1972.

Jessie now lives in Edmonton.

ED AND MARTHA SCHMIDT FAMILY

written by Mrs. Martha Schmidt in her 77th year

I was born in Great Falls, Montana. At the age of two years, I came with my parents to Alberta. After living at Hay Lakes for a few years, my dad made a down payment on a half section of land at Nisku, Alberta in 1910. That is where I mostly grew up.

When Ed's parents came from the old country to Alberta, Ed was a young boy. They settled in the Looma district. Later, they bought land at Rolly View, and that's where Ed and I first met and got to know each other. We were married a few years later, and lived on Ed's farm at Rolly View a few years, then moved 10 miles south west of Leduc on a rented farm. On rented land where the owner takes a share of the crop, there is not too much left. We lived there 12 years, but money was scarce. During the 12 years, we were hailed out 100% twice, which made it bad.

We had five children; Leo, Adolph, Ervin, Rose, and Frieda. Those were the depression years of the hungry '30's.



Strawberry District.
The Edward and Martha Schmidt family. Back row: Rose Gellert, Ervin,
Adolph, Freida Connelly. Front Row: Martha, Leo and Edward.

Leduc was our nearest town. Butter was worth 15 ¢ per lb., eggs 10¢ a doz., and a market pig brought \$3.00. We shipped a 1200 lb. bull to Edmonton by truck and got \$16.00 for him - then truckage came off that. Making a living was really a problem with so little money coming in. The children attended Michigan Centre, a two-room school with Mrs. Kathleen McHugh as their teacher. By the time Rose and later Frieda started school, Leo was old enough to handle horses, so Ed got them a one-horse cutter and they drove to school in winter. In summer they walked the 2 miles.

When Ed started looking around to buy land again, he found out there was a quarter section of C.P.R. land in the Strawberry district for sale. Two brothers had taken it up, but after a short time they dropped it and it fell back to the C.P.R. They had made no improvements except for clearing 13 acres. There was no fence, no buildings, no water well or anything else, only heavy bush from one end to the other. Ed made a down payment on that quarter of land anyway. He made several trips out there from Michigan Centre and started building a granary with the lumber he took with him, so there would be shelter. While there, he met Mr. Joe Larose, and when visiting together, Mr. Larose told him he and his family lived 1 mile east on the next road. Mr. Larose told Ed they had been farming there for quite a few years, but intended to retire and move to Thorsby. The 2 men came to an agreement that Ed would rent his land for 3 years, live on the Larose place, and that would give us a chance to make some improvements on our own farm.

So, that same spring of 1937, we moved to the Strawberry district. Ed had planned to take a load of grain out before we moved everything else, but he took sick with the flu. Leo and Adolph said they would take the load by themselves. I helped them load the grain and next morning the boys were to start out. It was a dark, cloudy day with a cold west wind blowing, but the boys went anyway. This was quite an experience for the boys at their age—to venture out over poor roads and hills with a load of grain, spending the night in a cold granary with no stove to warm them, and eating a cold lunch. They managed to return the next day.

Douglas Larose was the trucker at that time, who helped us move out. He took the household things on his truck, and the two girls and I rode with him. Rudolph Kirchner helped Leo and Adolph drive the cattle. They took one riding pony between the 3 of them, changing off riding while the other 2 walked. They all got very tired so at Weed Creek they stopped to rest awhile, giving the cattle a chance to take a drink of water in the creek. The young calves found the way very long and didn't feel like walking much further. Ervin went with Ed on the loaded wagon.

This was a new part of the country which we had never seen before. When Douglas turned off the main road to the north and came to one hill first, then the big MacFarquhar hill that looked so awful, I thought we were going to the end of the world, with bush closing in all around us. The girls got scared too--such poor roads! We were not used to any hills, but by evening we all arrived at the Larose place--cattle and all. Ed and the boys still had to make a few trips back to Michigan Centre. There was no new grass yet, so they had to bring hay for the cattle and horses. There were chickens, pigs, and machinery to be moved--also grain for spring seeding. Leo, the oldest at 15 years of age, took one wagon and Ed the other and they managed to bring two loads at the same time.

After we got settled, the children started attending Strawberry School, with Mr. Mealing as their teacher. When spring seeding was finished, Ed started working on our farm. First, a patch had to be cleared for a yard, and then a well had to be dug. Logs were brought out for a two-room log cabin. When summer holidays came, it still meant getting out early. When morning chores were done, I packed lunch for the day, and Ed, I, and the 3 boys went to our farm to clear land. We stayed until evening chore time. This went on day after day. The girls were home doing the house work, and looking after the garden as best they could. Our children were hard workers, (the girls as well as the boys), which was a great help since we had no money to hire help. It took a lot of sweating to get some of that heavy bush down with an axe and grub hoe. If only there had been a bulldozer at the time!

In winter, Ed and the boys cut logs on the river banks, for a house. That was another man-killing job for Ed and the boys. Tramping around on those banks in deep snow, getting the logs down to the river onto the ice, then hauling them with horses and sleigh on the ice to a spot near the Holborn Ferry site, to be sawed into lumber.

In the summer of 1943, the boys with the help of Louie Gellert dug our basement with two horses and a small scraper. When this was done, with the help of Phillip Albrecht and Louie Gellert, we got our house built. Although the little log cabin had been our home for three years, it was nice to move into a more roomy house.

Then we bought the second quarter of land near by. It had 70 acres of cultivated land, which meant we had more pasture and were able to keep more cattle and more milk cows, which helped a lot.

In 1936, the year before we moved, the St. John's Lutheran Church was built. It was built out of logs with all volunteer work done by the church members. It was far from finished, and we were called on to help finish the job. A group of members stuffed the cracks with old rags, then they bought heavy blue building paper and the inside of the walls was lined with it. That had to do for a few years. Then, the parsonage had to be built for the Pastor and his family to live in. Then the congregation borrowed some money from the synod, and finished the church. It wasn't until the late '40s that times changed for the better, and prices went up a little for what people sold, like grain, cattle, pigs, etc.

For some years, we had a brass band with Mr. Kirchner, his boys Rudolph and Albert, Ed and our boys Leo, Adolph and Ervin, Mr. Becker and his daughter Elsie, and Laura Klemky. They played at church and other occasions. We also had a church choir which was made up of Mrs. Kirchner and the boys again, all of our family, Mrs. Phillip Albrecht and her girls Doris and Gertrude, and our son Adolph leading on the violin.

Quite often people would drop in at our place and there would be music and singing - a very nice pastime. The boys also formed an orchestra. Its members were Alex Patrick, Leo, Adolph, and Ervin. They played at dances and weddings.

The time came when one after another of our family got married. Rose married Louie Gellert. They started farming in the Genesee district, and are still there. Frieda married Albert Connolly. They farmed for a few years, then moved to Thorsby for awhile, then back to a farm in the Strawberry District, where they are still farming. Leo married Theresa Henschel of Ellerslie. After living at Leduc for a while, they came to start farming at Strawberry and are still there. Ervin married Ella Schmidt of Morrowdale and they have been farming there ever since. Adolph never married, and was the only one left at home. Since Ed was in poor health the last 4 years of his life, Adolph did most of the hard work.

In 1962, Ed passed away with a heart attack. Adolph stayed here on the farm, farming by himself. I am staying here too, but because of my health, I can't help him more than do housekeeping. Now most of the 20 grandchildren are grown up and some of them are on their own.

Life was not easy over the years. We went through many hardships, but always managed to get by somehow. Memories always come back, but perhaps life is meant to be that way. We are very thankful for the way God helped us through all the years. There were the happy days and sad ones too, but we always looked to God for help, and He was always near.

THE LEO SCHMIDT FAMILY

related by Leo and Theresa

Leo, the eldest son of Ed and Martha (Stebner) Schmidt was born in Rolly View, Alberta, When he was about 15 he came, with his parents, to the Strawberry district. He helped his parents on the farm clearning land and all the other work there was to do.

When he was older he got jobs in sawmills at various places. He, and sometimes his brothers, worked in the fall, stooking grain and pitching bundles for threshing machines. Leo remembers driving a team of mules for one outfit.

While he was still at home, Leo, with his brothers, Adolph and Ervin formed a band. Leo played drums or guitar, Ervin, guitar or banjo and Adolph mainly violin, but he could play almost any instrument. They usually hired an accordian player. The band was called "Western Serenaders" and they played for barn dances, weddings, etc. in the Telfordville-Strawberry area.

Theresa Henschel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Henschel, grew up in Ellerslie. She was employed in Edmonton where she met Leo at a birthday party. They were married on June 29, 1951 in Ellerslie. Leo was working at the oil rigs and living in Leduc at the time, and this is where they continued to live. Their first son, Vernon Leo was born there in August 1952. After living in Leduc for over a year they moved to Leo's farm in the Strawberry district.

There wasn't much of anything on the farm. A yard had to be cleared out and some necessary buildings put up. More land was cleared for pasture and grain.

They lived with Leo's parents until a two-roomed house was put up. This was to be their house for the next twelve years. In 1962, they bought a house from a neighbouring farm and moved it to their own farm. After a lot of fixing, it proved to be a larger, comfortable home for the growing family.

They started farming with five milk cows, some pigs and chickens but later changed to a beef herd which they still have. For several years Leo had worked at a variety of jobs to help pay expenses on the farm.



Leo Schmidt Family. L. to R. Larry, Alvin, Vernon, Harvey, Gerald, Valerie, Marjorie with parents Leo and Theresa seated in front.

Leo and Theresa have seven children. Vernon married Dawn Hunker and they have a daughter, Tammy. They live in Edmonton and Vern works as a supervisor for Canada Dry.

Harvey worked as a petrol operator for the county of Leduc for several years. At present he is employed in the oil fields as a seismic driller. He married Caroline Halladay and they have five children; Charmaine, Tania, Kiely, and twins, Cordell and Tara. Their home is in the Strawberry district.

Alvin lives in Edmonton, Gerald lives at home and is a trucker, Valerie works in Edmonton, and Marjorie and Larry are still in school.

DICK SCOTT

submitted by Theresa Donaldson

Dick Scott was a distant relative of the Saunders who homesteaded about two miles west of the Strawberry School in the early 1900's. Dick was a big man, well educated, who came often to visit Saunders.

We took the Edmonton Bulletin, which we passed on to him. While at our house he would talk over world affairs. He was a strong supporter of Sir Wilfred Laurier.

His house was a lean-to type log building. A square window in front overlooked a tangle of burnt logs and stumps pointing skyward. In summer the firewood grew entangled with vetch and peavine. Later on in the fall the white fluff from the fireweed flew down the little trail.

There was always a racket going on between the homesteaders, if they lived within shooting distance of each other, over brush fires or fence lines.

One day in 1916 he came to call on us, brought two sheets of music with him, and gave them to mother. One was entitled "My Mother's Prayers". Later in the spring of 1926 I heard Vi Cummings, Edmonton's popular singer, render that song for a Mother's Day Service in the First Presbyterian Church on 105 Street. The other sheet of music was "Three Leaves of Shamrock", which Mrs. Connolly sang for us at the many house parties in the district.

Mr. Scott told us never to leave our door unlocked and when inside to put a knife between the door and casing.

Mr. Scott was the ferry man at one time, and received an official wage. The guardian angel of the ferry, Joe Gibson, helped for several years. While there he panned for gold, some days making as much as three dollars. That was more than his ferryman's pay!

Later he was hospitalized, then went east, but visited friends here in the thirties.

THE SHILSON FAMILY

by Mrs. Alma Jablonski

Ernest Albert Shilson was born in Stayne, Ontario in the year 1875. While still a youngster, he moved to Brandon, Manitoba with his family where he was raised. As a young man, he moved west to Strathmore where he met and married Ella Goffrier. He and his bride moved to Rudyard, Montana where he owned and operated a hardware store and the Minneapolis Moline agency.

In 1923, after a number of years of drought and grasshoppers which left the area severly depressed, he decided to move to Canada.

With his wife and family of Ernest, Ellery, Alma and Lorimer, some machinery, horses and a few cattle, he arrived in Leduc in June of 1923. After living in

several rented houses, "Bert" Shilson contracted the $S\frac{1}{2}$ 7-50-1-W5 in the Strawberry district. Another daughter, Olive, was born. The family soon learned to face the stark reality of pioneer life after being used to living in a modern house in town with all the conveniences a town could offer.

The children all attended Strawberry School and the 3 youngest attended Thorsby High School.

Bert Shilson lived on the farm until his death in June of 1958. He was predeceased by his oldest son Ernest in 1943.

CHRISTOFF SOMMERS

by a grandaughter

Christoff Sommers was born on Dec. 26, 1831 in Russia. His wife Caroline (Riehmer) was born on Dec. 15, 1844. They moved to Canada around 1885 and took up a homestead in the Leduc area - N.E. 2-50-26-W4. Christoff was a very good-natured and mild-mannered man. No one ever remembered seeing him angry. Carolina was a sombre person and was always seen wearing her kerchief. Like other pioneers of that time, they started building sod shacks and grubbing their land by hand. They had 5 children — Julius, Rudolph, Frederick, Albert and Tillie.



Christoff and Carolina Sommer. Grandparents of Walter Sommer.

Julius moved to B.C. Rudolph married Emma Schattschneider and they took up a homestead in the Strawberry area - N.E. 20-50-1-W5, around 1908. Albert married Ida Schattschneider and helped out at home and eventually took over the home place. Tillie married Charles Schattschneider and they settled on the S.W. 22-50-1-W5. Frederick took up a homestead west of his father's on the same section.

Christoff passed away Feb. 7, 1920 and Carolina passed away Dec. 20, 1924.

FREDERICK SOMMERS

Frederick Sommers was born in April, 1873, and moved to Canada with his parents around 1885. He worked at the brick factory in Strathcona for a number of years. He married Carolina Schattschneider around



Family of Frederick and Carolina Sommers. Back Row: Theodore, Gustave, Samuel, Reinhold, August. Center Row: William, Charlie, Ida, Fred and Walter. Sitting: Hilda Bara, Carolina (mother), Frederick, Father, Olga Arnoult.

1901. He then went to work in the coal mines, and at the same time made improvements on his farm with the use of oxen. Around this time most of his time was spent farming.

Frederick and Carolina had sixteen children. The first, twin girls, were born in 1903 and died in infancy. The children are Charley, Bill, Reinhold, Gustoff, Hilda, Samuel, Fred, Walter, Ted, Olga, August, and Ida. Two more children died in infancy. Charley married Bertha Shaffrick. They farmed in the Calmar area until retirement and then moved to Wetaskiwin. They have 3 children. Charley passed away July 7, 1972.

Bill took up a homestead in the Strawberry area and later sold it to Mike Pasut. He married Bertha Schultheiss and they lived on the Romeo Mayo place for a few years. They lived in various places after that, and now reside in Leduc.

Reinhold homesteaded the quarter just north of Bill's, now the Ed Hubscher place. Then he and Gus bought the north half of 22-50-1-W5. He married Minnie Pasut and they had two children. Later he married Irene Holecska and they now live in Thorsby.

Gus spent most of his time living in the Leduc area. Hilda married Albert Bara and they have 5 children. They lived in Calmar for quite a few years,



From left to right, back row: Mrs. and Mrs. Frederick Sommer, Juliana Schattschneider, Mr. and Mrs. Charley Snider, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sommer. Front Row: Bertha Sommer, Hilda Sommer, Martha Sommer, Carl Sommer.

and are now in Edmonton.

Sam farmed the S.W. 22-50-1-W5. He married Edna Schultheiss and they lived at Fisher Home. They have 3 children. Sam now lives in Leduc.

Fred married Ella Molzan and they have 3 children. They lived in Devon and Edmonton and now live in B.C.

Walter bought the S.E. 22-50-1-W5. He married Laura Gitzel and they lived at Genesee. They have 3 children. Walter now lives in the Strawberry area.

Ted bought the SW 22-50-1-W5 from Sam. He married Ruth Kuhn and they have 3 children. They moved to the Leduc area where they still live.

Olga married Allan Arnault. They have 3 children. August remained a bachelor and lived at home until he passed away on Sept. 14, 1969.

Ida married Ralph Sommers and they live in the Barrhead area with their 2 children.

WALTER SOMMERS

by Laura Sommers

Walter was born on Oct. 25, 1917, in the Leduc area. He was 1 of 16 children born to his parents. He took his schooling in the Cohne Dale School and was very active in sports. The Sommers' house was the gathering place for all the young folk in the area. Dances were often held in the granary. Walter would play at the dances but he never was too fond of dancing. At 14 years of age, he quit school and started working out. During harvest time he stooked for some of the neighbors and pitched bundles for \$1 a day. Walter worked for his brother-in-law for a few years learning the carpentry trade. Later he and this brother Bill worked for Mr. Ross, who was also in carpentry. After this the boys went building on their own. In 1939, Walter and his brother Gus, bought the S.W. 22-50-1-W5 from Mr. Campbell in the Strawberry district. This was the quarter that had been taken up as a homestead by Charley Snider.

In 1941, Walter got his army draft. He sold his half of the farm to his brother, Sam. Sam bought the other half of the farm from Gus some time after. Walter reported to the training centre in Camrose on July 31, 1941. He didn't serve because of medical reasons.

After returning to Leduc he went back to the carpentry trade. He then bought the old Snider place, S.E. 22-50-1-W5, overlooking the river just east of Sam's farm.

On Nov. 3, 1943, Walter and I (Laura Gitzel) were married. The wedding was held in Leduc and the reception was held at Walter's parents' home. We had a traditional German wedding where one of the customs was for the bride's shoe to be taken during the reception and auctioned off to the highest bidder. Somehow the best man always got the last bid and claimed a kiss from the bride. In the same tradition, a



Walter and Laura Sommer.

wedding usually meant a chivarie, with blasting shotguns, banging wash tubs, and clanging tin lids. The parents of the young couple usually opened the door to the gang, and if there was enough room they were asked to join the party, but if there was not enough room, the chivarie would be celebrated elsewhere with a jug of wine saved just for them. In the German culture, it was considered very good luck to have a chivarie.

That same week, we moved to Walter's farm in the Strawberry area. Reinhold drove us out with the team and wagon, with 7 little pigs that Walt had purchased, accompanying us. Walt set about cutting logs for a barn, and dragged them out of the bush by hand since we didn't have horses. He put cull lumber and slabs on the top for a roof and covered them with slough hay. We then made arrangements to bring our 2 cows home. The cows were gifts from both our parents. After the cows were in the barn, Walter plastered the cracks with manure and straw. The next year, we plastered the cracks with mud and hay and put in a floor. We had no snow that winter until just before Christmas when there was a light snowfall. That year, Walter got the firewood out by hand also. dragging the rails tied together to the yard, where he cut them with the buck saw. We had no coal that first winter, so it took a lot of wood to keep the place warm. It wasn't too cold on quiet days, but when it was windy the wind blew indoors, too, making the curtains wave briskly. The house was overrun by mice, and we had mouse traps set in every corner. One night in particular, we heard the trap go clicking across the floor, and when Walt got up to get the mouse, he found a large garter snake in the trap. My brother Fred stayed overnight once and when he

shook out his shoes in the morning, out dropped a snake. During these cold days our water dipper froze in the water pail and had to be hacked out each morning.

The following spring, in 1944, we got frequent heavy rain showers. In June we got 2 days of real heavy rainfall. You could see the Strawberry Creek rise every hour and at the end of 2 days, you could hear the roar for miles. As the high water swept downstream, it took away everything in its path. Whole trees were uprooted and swept away like matchsticks. In many places the creek took short cuts across the flats and haystacks and buildings were swept away. Where the bridges weren't washed away, the approaches were, and a lot of culverts and parts of roads were also washed out. We found ourselves stranded for quite a time. George Ritter, who was one of the first pig farmers in the area, suffered a great loss to his business during the flood.

On Sept. 13, 1944, or first son, Alvin Roy, was born. He passed away after only a couple of weeks. The kindness shown to us by our friends and neighbors at that time still warms our hearts today.

That fall Walter cut about 7 acres of hay in the flat with the scythe, and some slough hay besides. To take off our crop, Walt made arrangements with neighbors in exchange for labour. The next spring we bought our first horse from Joe Gibson. This made it easier for bringing in firewood and we had a saddle-horse to get groceries. Usually he'd go across the creek and send for supplies or catch a ride to town with someone. On one of these trips, the horse broke through the ice. When Walter noticed the ice give way, he threw himself flat on the ice. Although the ice bent he was able to get to the side with the aid of his rifle. Only the head and part of the horse's back were showing but Walt was able to coax it out. He came straight home and covered the horse with blankets. The horse was sick for several weeks. That summer we bought our first car, a Model A Ford truck.

On Oct. 13, 1945, our second son Ellery, was born. By this time, Walter had fences made and had fixed up part of the large shed for a cow barn and used the one he had built, for calves. He also built a garage. Walt traded off the Fordson and bought a Twin City tractor, which was better suited for working land and could also be used for breaking more land. Walt took off all the logs that could be made into lumber and some of the smaller trees he sawed into firewood. We then hired a brush-cutter to cut and pile the rest. We had plans to build a large barn in a few years and milk a lot of cows. Walt pulled the largest trees by tractor and cable after first chopping off some of the roots. It was while doing this that he was seriously hurt. The tree tops were very dry and one snapped off, hitting him in the head. He received a broken skull and smashed cheek bones and was in critical condition for days. When he came home from hospital, he was weak and unable to work. Things did



Back Row: Marilyn (Robinson), Marvin, Ellery, Walter and Laura, April 3, 1977.

not look good for us. We sold the cows and the garage and bought enough land to build a pool room in Genesee. The squared lumber that was made to build the barn was used to build the pool room. We had to go into debt to finish building, and pay for the pool tables. The east end of the building was partitioned off for living quarters. Walt was a fairly good pool player, so we did quite well in the business. The next summer, we decided to get some pigs and keep them in the back. We bought 2 sows and they each had a large litter. One evening when we went to feed them, both sows were sick with erysipelas. We bought canned milk to try and save the little pigs, but they were just too young. We were able to save the sows, but we quit trying to raise pigs.

On July 11, 1952, our daughter, Marilyn, was born. Walter's health had improved a great deal by this time, and he became very restless being indoors for so many years. He longed to be outdoors again so he took a job rebuilding the Genesee Ferry. Later he remodelled the Carron house. After this he went carpentering on a steady basis. Meanwhile Ellery started going to school at the old Genessee School. The following year the new school was completed, so he attended school there. We sold the pool room to Julius Rinas and we rented the old Gibson place from Herman Sommers. We moved the house we had bought from Mr. Rinas onto this place. Ellery then attended the Strawberry School. In Sept., 1957, we bought the farm from Herman.

On June 8, 1961, our third son, Marvin was born. During the years we lived on the Gibson place, Walt did not go out working. He rented another half section and there was lots to do. He cut timber in winter for our buildings and also had a trap line. In 1966, we sold that farm and bought the Stanley Alexander place. We are still living on this farm.

Ellery married Lorainne Stobbe and they have 2 children, Cory and Christina. They live in the Bon Accord area. Marilyn married Jack Robinson and

they have 2 children, Tina and Richard. They live north of Thorsby in the Strawberry area. Marvin is still at home and is taking grade 12 at Warburg High School.

TONY AND GEORGINA WILSON

by Junie Dolling

Georgia Anne McFarquhar was born in 1905 in Edmonton and moved to the Telfordville, Strawberry district in 1906 with her parents. She attended Telfordville and Strawberry Schools and also Strathcona in Edmonton. She took piano and singing lessons and could do both very well. In 1923, Anthony Lenard Wilson moved to his farm from North Dakota, U.S.A. In 1925 they were married beside the fireplace in the McFarquhar home by the Rev. H.G. Rice. Tony came to his wedding in one of the few cars that was in the district. A big crowd attended the wedding dance that was held in the Telfordville Hall with Mr. Kopang's orchestra playing the music. William, their first son was born at the Logan hill with the help of his grandparents and Dr. Haworth.



McFarquhar Family.

Georgia and Tony were excellent card players and helped instigate the 500 parties that are still being held 50 years later. Georgia played music for many dances and sang at many occasions; many remember how she could sing Danny Boy and Indian Love Call.

Tony, being a very good dragline man, went out to work for Mannix Const. and other companies. He helped build the Thorsby railroad, Gold mine road at Rayon, Quebec, Alaska Highway and in later years roads many miles further north. They moved to San Francisco where Tony worked a dragline and Georgia became one of the best telephone operators in the country. Their second son, Donald, was born while they were there.

On moving back to their farms Georgia and sons tended to the farming with the help of hired hands.

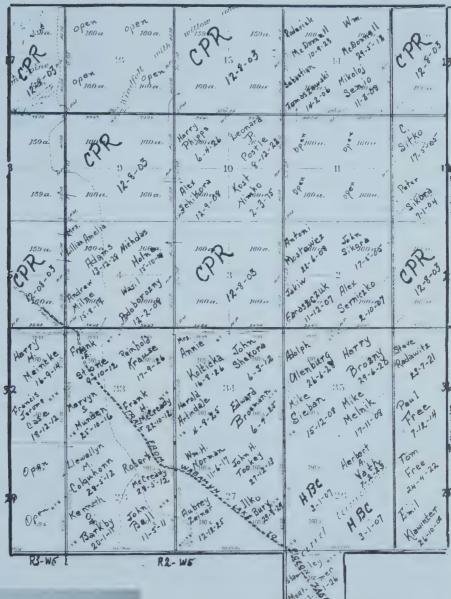


Tony and Georgina Wilson and sons.

She was Sec.-Treas. when the first organ was bought for the Strawberry community, and was the one who went to buy the lumber for the Telfordville United Church manse.

The 2 boys attended Strawberry School. William then went to Edmonton to stay with his Aunt Jean to finish his high school, with Donald moving with his parents to Cherhill, where they had bought the hotel. William was in the airforce and Donald went to the Veterinary College in Ontario. Georgia and Tony were divorced and she married Bill McIntosh and moved to Vancouver and Tony stayed on the dragline. The war being over William married Rose Parker and moved to Vancouver where he took 3 years commerce and began working for Ford of Canada, of which he is a high official today. Donald decided to follow in his father's footsteps and is still running a dragline. Georgia passed away a few years after being hurt very badly in a car accident in Oct. 1968.

Sunnybrook



The First Homesteaders & Grants to the CPR

The Information on this Map Courtesy of: Alberta Prov. Archives and Alberta Gov't Map Division



(Falconer) School District No. 4154 November 9, 1923

Sunnybrook School as it looked when it was closed June, 1966.

FALCONER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4154 — 1923 TO DEC. 1934 RENAMED: SUNNYBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4154 — Jan. 1, 1935 to June 1967

Jan. 1, 1935 to June 190 by Donald K. Vath

The first school serving the Sunnybrook area was organized in 1909 and was known as Sunnybrook School District #2230, built during the winter of 1912-1913 on the S.E. corner of Sec. 1-49-3 W5 which is 1 mile east of Warburg corner. As more land was being occupied by new settlers the need arose for another School District, so the Falconer School District #4154 was organized in 1923. As there was no school building available for the children until the fall term of Sept. 1925, the children from the west end of the newly formed district continued to attend the old Sunnybrook School, those from the east attended the Dniester School #2716.

Children attending the Dniester School from the east were: Sophie, Joe, John and Peter Tomaszewski, Ed and Nellie Scobie, all travelling a distance of 4½ miles. Lester, Donald and Adeline Vath had a distance of 3 miles. There were no school buses in those days, so we went by "Shanks Ponies". The children from the west also had considerable distances to go. The Falconer School was built on the west corner of S.W. 3-49-2W5 which is ½ mile west of the present village of Sunnybrook.

The first teacher was Miss F. MacGillivray, Sept. 1925 - June 1928, at a salary ranging from \$80 to \$105 per month. She was followed by Ralph McCready Sept. 1928 to June 1931 at a salary ranging from \$100

to \$110 per month.

Beresford W. Munden took over on Sept. 1931 to Dec. 1934. This was during the so-called "dirty '30s", so salary was reduced to \$86 per month for the first year and then increased to \$110 per month.



Falconer School being moved to make way for new Sunnybrook School - 1935.

On Jan. 1, 1935, Falconer School #4154 was renamed Sunnybrook School District #4154. The teacher was Beresford W. Munden who continued to teach until Dec. 1936. The old Sunnybrook School District #2230 was renamed Warburg School #2230.

On Jan. 1, 1937, H. Waldon Smith took over from Beresford Munden, remaining there until June, 1946 on a salary ranging from \$65 to \$86.50 per month. By 1940 there were 57 pupils in the one-room school, so a small house across the road from the school was converted into a classroom and Grades 1 to 5 were taught by Emery Gruninger for 1 year, Sept. 1, 1940-June, 1941 at a salary of \$72 per month. H. Waldon Smith taught Grades 6 to 10 in the original school. Harold Smith, a brother of H. Waldon Smith took over from Emery Gruninger for the term of Sept. 1, 1941 to June, 1942, at a salary of \$80 per month. In the fall of 1942, Mrs. Rachael Munden took over from



Falconer School - 1927 Highland fling dancers, dressed for Christmas concert. L. to R. Andrea McCallum, Adeline Vath, Blanche McCready.



Falconer School Class of 1928.

Back L. to R. Sam Berry, Nellie Scobie, Peter Tomaszewski, Johnny (Koltika) Kolt;, Esther Ollenberg, Wesley Adams, Adeline Vath, Arnold Munden, Teacher - Miss Florence McGillvray. 2nd Row: Betty Scobie, Margaret Artindale, Francis Tomaszewski, Stanley Artindale, Lewis Vath, Harry Meincke, Donald Meincke, Katie Koltika, Elnora Berry. Front Row: Nathaniel Berry, Sam Ollenberg, Willy Ollenberg, Karl Artindale, Andrew Tomaszewski, Lillian Artindale, Irene Artindale, Anne Berry.



The Last Falconer School Class of 1934 and First Class under New Name Sunnybrook School - Jan. 1935

Back row: Left to right: Beresford Munden - Teacher, Mike Tomaszewski, Leonard Edstrom, Sam Ollenberg, Willie Ollenberg, Robert Zeiner, Katie Kolticka, Murriel Morrison, Betty Scobie, Margaret Artindale, Elnora Barry, Lewis Vath, Charles Zeiner, John Kolticka, Emergy Gruninger, Andrew Tomaszewski. Middle Row: Standing - Lily Barry, Irene Artindale, Anna Pacholka, Violet Schmidt, Tim Pacholka, Carrie Mottl, Ida Remfert, Mina Schmidt, Lillian Artindale, Annie Hrubac, Lisa Wust, Annie Berry, Esther Vath, Frieda Ollenberg. Front Row: Standing - Myrtle Artindale, Olga Cherwinka, Frieda Schultz, Francis Kolticka, Clara Artindale. Sitting - Front Row: Frank Tomaszewski, Donald Tarney, Bob Zukowski, Andrew Pacholka, Lester Krause, Rueben Schmidt, Mike Zukowski, Stanley Tomaszewski, Girt Krueger, Earl Zeiner, Carl Artindale.



Sunnybrook School "Ball Team 1941. L. to R. Rear: Peter Free, Bob Worshek, Mike Free, Johny McDonnell, Andrew Free. Centre Row: L. to R. Joe Zukowski, Egon Kruger, Joe Free, Arnold Rinas, Herb Mogden. Front: L. to R. Allen Burroughs, John Zukowski, Fred Kostyk, Henry Zukowski.

H. Smith in this school. In the spring of 1943, the elementary school was too small so the municipal building, located where the Sunnybrook hall now stands, was converted to a class room for the elementary grades, and Mrs. Rachael Munden was the teacher in this building, Sept. 1, 1942 - June, 1943. In the year 1947, a new two-room school was built and the old Falconer (Sunnybrook) school was moved to Fern Creek in 1948. In 1952, another two-room addition was built on.

The teachers at that time were:
Mrs. Mildred (Smith) Beere — presently living in
Pincher Creek, Alta.
1941 - 1946 Waldon Smith

1941 - 1946 Waldon Sm 1946 - 1948 ? 1948 - 1950 Alice Belinski

1950 - 1951 Ed Krukowski, Elna Jackson

1951 - 1953 Ed Krukowski, Phyllis Krukowski

1953 - 1956 Ed Krukowski, Phyllis Krukowski, Elsie Klatt





Sunnybrook Class of Miss Bredehorn Brack Row: L. to R. Ivan Smith, Ron Wegner, Ken Zaharko, Bob Sontag, Ronald Proctor, Kelly Kellaly, David Hanas, Edward Tomaszewski, Dennis Gruninger. Middle Row: L. to R. Sharon Norgaard, Dianne Wegner, Evelyn Stilet, Lily Smith, Marlene Meyers, Susan Dowler. Front Row: L. to R. Margaret Morden, Lucy Lutczyn, Judy Pankewitz, Linda Bilou, Hazel Warnke, Sharon Gitzel.



Mrs. Rachel Munden's classes in Sunnybrook School. Back row: Gerald Gruninger, Mava Scobie, Joanne Norgaard, Olga Mogdan, Clifford Zeiner, Vivian Stilet, Kenneth McDonell, Phyllis Gruninger, Kenneth Metke, Marvin Dalke, Tom McDonell, Howard Metke. 2nd Row: Patsy Zeiner, Neil Norgaard, Neville Burroughs, Mary McDonnell, 3rd Row: Margaret McDonnell, Edward Zukowsky, Irvin Metke, Arnold Richard and Elaine Zeiner. 4th Row: Edna Keevil, Barbara Dalke, Mervin Proctor, Helen Schmidt, Frances Gruninger and Elva Mogdan.

1956 - 1957 Ed Krukowski, Elsie Tomaszewski (Klatt), Shirley Pailer 1957 - 1958 Ed Krukowski, Anna Bredehorn, Margaret Newhart 1958 - 1959 John Kiville, Anne Bredehorn, Mildred McAllister Ronald Williams, Anna Bredehorn, 1959 - 1960 Mildred McAllister 1960 - 1962 Ronald Williams, Anna Bredehorn, Elizabeth Gaydar 1962 - 1963 Andrew Shypenia, Edward Kinley, Elizabeth Paukstat (Gaydar) 1963 - 1966 Elsie Tomaszeski, Edward Kurley, Elizabeth Paukstat

Sunnybrook School closed in June 1966. With time comes change. So it is with the school system, from one and two-room schools to the consolidated. So it is with the games that the children play. I can recall the games that were played in my field ball; but the favorite I think was pig-in-the-poke, These were the summer games. For winter it was fox-and-goose, cowboys and Indians with forts made of snow.

Then there was the annual Christmas program, when the teachers would start in early Nov. to have practices. With the skits, marches, dialogues and singing, a program would sometimes last for 2 hours. At the end of each school term there would be a picnic.

When the Consolidated School District of Warburg was formed in 1954, Grades 7 to 12 were bused to Warburg. Grades 1 to 6 continued to be taught here until the end of June, 1966 term, when the school was closed. The school property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Siegfried Blasner. Part of the building was used as a manufacturing enterprise for small equipment and the rest was used for living quarters. A few years later it was sold again and is now used solely as a family dwelling.



HAMLET OF SUNNYBROOK, ALBERTA

The coming of the C.P.R. into Sunnybrook in 1928 prompted the erection of buildings. Many buildings have come and gone through the years and, as most dates are being recorded from memory, there could be some discrepancies.

Andrew Pacholka built the first store in 1928 and operated it until 1934. Ole L. Edstrom built a store west of the Pacholka store in 1930, which was the start of the depression years. As there was very little money to be had, he used a unique system of barter for farm produce, by issuing his own printed coins or tokens. There are a couple of them in existence to this day.

Upon the death of Mr. Edstrom, a Mr. Kennedy bought the store and operated it for a few years, then sold to Mr. Pirro who in turn, sold it to the late Charles O'Rielly who used it for a used machinery depot. These buildings are no longer in existence.



Ed Brosman.

Ed. Brosman was a blacksmith who operated a shop on the west side of the Weed Creek School on the Town Line from 1924 to 1930 when he moved his operation into Sunnybrook. He also built his residence there and lived there till he moved to his homestead ½ mile south, where he retired. The shop and contents were sold to Louis Worshek. The buildings are no longer in existence but the site is where Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tomaszewski have their home. In 1930 Ed Schmidt built a feed mill, east of the Pacholka store and operated it until he sold out to Iulius Hoffman in 1936. In 1933 the Sunnybrook Post Office operated by Mr. and Mrs. Mervin Munden from their farm, was transferred into the hamlet. They operated this until Mr. and Mrs. John Griffin took over for a number of years and built a new and larger building which is the present Post Office. Upon their leaving the district, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Artindale operated it until 1954. Mrs. Eva Monds took over from there until her retirement in Sept. 1974. Our present postmaster is Mr. Mike Saluk who took over from Mrs. E. Monds.

1934 saw the Municipal District of Pioneer #490 locate a building near the Post Office and later move it



Sunnybrook Hocky Team before 2nd World War.
Standing: L. to R. Mike Tomaszewski, Leslie Shave; Jack Griffin, Earl
Zeiner, Harold Smith, Charlie Zeiner, Waldon Smith. Front: Cecil
Bredin, Stanley Artindale, James McDonnel.

east across the street from the Pacholka store.

Leo Rocque was appointed as Secretary-Treasurer and had Allan Saunders and Barbara Rae working as his assistants. In Dec. 1935 W.A. Bradbury arrived in Sunnybrook to assist with the municipal duties, but soon took over as Sec. Treas.. He held that position into the expansion of the County System, until his retirement in June, 1973.

In 1934 William (Bill) Borgstede bought out the A. Pacholka store and operated it with the help of Mike Tomaszewski as clerk until 1947, when Mike Tomaszewski bought half interest in the business. Later that same year, Mike and brother Frank bought the remaining half of Bill's interest in the business, and operate the business at this time.

Sometime between 1930 and 1934 Jake Block had a sawmill in the area where the County now has its shop. From the lumber he sawed, he built a large service station and garage which was operated until the sawmill operation closed down. This garage then was purchased by Mr. A.E. Zeiner Sr. and Sons to use as a service garage for their lumber trucks, which hauled their lumber from their mill in the Breton area. When there were no more logs available, their mill operation ceased, so there was no need for the garage. In the spring of 1944 this property was sold to the partnership of Steve Pankewicz and son John and used as a service station and garage to serve the public. John's brother, Fred, joined the partnership in Aug. 1945. In 1960, John and Fred dissolved the partnership, with John retaining the full ownership of this business to the present time. In 1960 Fred built the service station on Hi-way 39, which he operated for a two-year period, before going to Drayton Valley. The garage was then rented to Peter Free for a period of 2 years. After this there were others who rented it before it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Worshek in Sept. 1965. They operate it at the present time.

About 1936 the Pioneer Grain elevator was built on the western outskirts of the hamlet, with Leo L. Olson as the first manager. He was followed by Harry Twidt, Frank Burroughs, Ted Meyers and the present manager Don Schlosser. This elevator serves a large area to the west so it ships a large amount of grain.



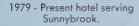
Aerial View of Sunnybrook Alta. around 1951.

Extreme Left: Community Hall. Upper Left: Zeiner home site, cafe across road. Upper Centre: Pankewitz Garage. Upper Right: Lutheran Church. Lower Right: Post Office (large building). Left Front: Tomaszewski Bros. Store and house to the South. South of

Lutheran Church. Lower Right: Post Office (large building). Left Front: Tomaszewski Bros. Store and house to the South. South of Store is the Sunnybrook Hotel, owned and operated at that time by Wm. Borgstede. Next to Hotel is the Fred Pankewitz home. Next building to South is Butcher Shop. The next large building is Zaharko's Store.



1979 - Pioneer Elevator with new weighing facilities and fertilizer storage bins.





1979 - One Stop Auto Service garage now in use, will be replaced by a new and larger building now under construction. Owned and operated by Peter Free.



1979 - The former Sunnybrook general store, now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Peter Free, has been remodelled for their home.



1979 - Farmers Supply Store owned and operated by Tomaszewski Brothers, Mike and Frank.



1979 - Garage and Service station owned & operated by Ray Worshek.

In 1939 Julius Hoffman built a store south of the Borgstede store, operated it for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years then sold to John Benham who operated it for $1\frac{1}{2}$ years. Harry McKay operated there for 8 months before it was sold to John Zaharko in 1944 or '45 and operated into the late 1960's as a family business. He then sold it to Ed



Part of Sunnybrook Hockey team - 1940. L. to R. Leslie Shave, Waldon Smith, Jim McDonnell, Stanley Tomaszewski, Stanley Artindale.

Rustand who operated it for 2 years. This property was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Free and remodelled into a home, where they presently reside. In the late 40's Steve Workun built and operated a butcher shop for a couple of years before selling to Mr. Adolph Wegner who then operated it till 1953. It was then closed down and remodelled by his son-in-law Douglas Erickson into a body shop and operated for 2 years. The business was then sold to the present owner, Peter Free, who operates it as "One Stop Auto & Body Shop Ltd." A new modern garage and paint shop are presently under construction and will hopefully be in operation by the time this book is published.

In 1947 Bill Borgstede built a hotel south of the store and opened it for business in April of 1948. He operated this until his retirement, then sold it to Mr. Gordon Erickson, who in turn built an addition to enlarge the bar room. This hotel burnt down in 1955. Louie Rinas built the Blue Bird Cafe and operated this for a number of years with the help of his daughter, Hilda. When it was closed down, Jack Arthur bought the building and moved it to Buck Lake. 1961 saw the construction of a new hotel on the north side of highway 39 by Henry Gellert and Ted Ramshaw. They operated this for a number of years. This hotel has changed hands several times since then and the present owner and operator is Peter Bensema.

No date had been established as to when the hall was built, but a few years ago, an addition was put on to accommodate a kitchen and lavatory facilities. This building has served the community well over the years.

Although the County has restrictions on the



1979. Sunnybrook Post Office as it appears today.

expansion of the hamlet in regard to water and sewer facilities, this has not deterred some families from building new homes and renovating the older ones. The County has had a shop here for a number of years, where they service and repair county equipment.

If we have overlooked any business or facility that is not mentioned, it is not intentional, but a lack of information available to us. Information in this article is supplied by present business and interested persons to Donald Vath, the writer.

SUNNYBROOK LADIES WAR WORKERS GROUP

The Sunnybrook Ladies War Workers Group was very active during W.W. II and for several years later. This picture was taken after one of their monthly meetings at the home of Mrs. Sydney Shave.

Parcels were sent every month to a soldier who



Sunnybrook Ladies Group who gave aid to the 2nd War.

didn't have a family back home. Also, parcels of clothing were sent to war-torn countries.

Bingo games were held regularly and raffles were held to raise money to use for donations and to pay expenses.

The names are as follows: Left to Right - Children - 1 Pankewicz, 2 Dietrichs, 3 Shaves, Mrs. Burroughs, next not known, Mrs. Mary Artindale, Mrs. Griffin, Lilian Deitrich, Mrs. Fred Pankewicz, Mrs. Aubrey Ziener Sr., Mrs. Julius Hoffman, Mrs. Munden Sr., Mrs. Margaret Shave, Mrs. Wm. Borgstede and Mrs. Fanny Artindale.

HAROLD AND FANNY ARTINDALE

by their sons and daughters

Harold Artindale, originally from near Cornwall, Ont., came to Alberta with his brother Willis in 1905. He took up a homestead in the Sunnybrook area in 1912. Harold left Sunnybrook and went to Cereal, Alberta where he met Fanny Clarkson and married her on May 15, 1916. They remained in Cereal until Nov. 1923, and returned to Sunnybrook with their 5 children Stanley, Margaret, Karl, Irene and Clara. They left behind 2 infant boys at rest in Cereal Cemetery.



Harold and Fanny Artindale.

Mom and Dad arrived in Leduc by train and were met by Uncle Willis with his team and wagon to take the family to Sunnybrook. Mom, Dad and 5 children stayed at 2 different houses in the Sunnybrook area until they had a house built on their homestead on SW 34-48-2-W5; 1 mile west and ½ mile south of



Family Gathering at the Artindale homestead in 1939.
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Artindale, Sons, Stanton, Karl, Donnelly.
Daughters, Margaret, Irene, Clara, Myrtle, Sarah, Blanche, Evelyn,
Mr. & Mrs. Willis Artindale, daughter, Lillian, son, Robert McCready.
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Grant, sons, Edwin, Bob. Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lotridge,
Miss Ella Brown, Holly Arnolds, The Rev. McTavish and Mrs.
McTavish.



Children of Harold and Fanny Artindale. Family reunion. Back: L. to R. Stanley, Margaret Shave, Karl, Irene Grant, Clara Tyrlik. Front: Evelyn Frtiz, Donnelly, Blanche Thielan, Sarah Molloy, Myrtle Brown.

Sunnybrook. By the time they moved into their own log home they had 2 additions to the family — Myrtle and Sarah. In the following years Mom and Dad had 4 more children, one of which passed away. The 3 youngest were Blanche, Donnely and Evelyn.

The children attended Falconer School later named Sunnybrook School. Mom and Dad remained on their homestead raising 10 children.

The eldest son, Stanley, enlisted at the beginning of World War II followed by Karl in 1942. Stanley was discharged from the army due to poor health and took over a rural mail service. His route went from Sunnybrook to Telfordville, to St. Francis and back to Sunnybrook. Stanley was helping out on the farm as well.

In the spring of 1948, Mom, Dad and family moved from the farm into the hamlet of Sunnybrook and bought the post office. Only the 3 youngest were still at home. Stanley remained on his mail route until the mid '40s.

In 1954, Mom and Dad sold the post office and moved to Burnaby, B.C., and lived with their daughter Sarah and family.

Dad passed away in 1960, and Mom passed away in 1974, leaving 3 sons, 7 daughters, 40 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

GEORGE BENTLEY FAMILY

by Harvey Bentley

Dad was born in Edmonton on March 31, 1914. He lived in the Clover Bar area for 8 years and then moved with his parents to the farm NW 28-49-1 W5, near Telfordville. It is now owned by Dick Gluntz. At the age of 8 he started school at the Telfordville school. His teacher was Mrs. F. Grant.

He stayed home as he grew up, and helped his father to farm until 1935 when he bought his own land SE 22-49-2- W5. It was 3 miles north of Sunnybrook. The land was the original Allen homestead which was owned by Jim VanAlstyne. During the next 4 years he lived in a small log cabin that had been built by Mr. Allen, and spent his time clearing and breaking land. The work was done by hand, with the help of horses, but some of the breaking was done with the help of his dad's 20-30 Wallace tractor. For awhile he hired Jack Dennis and several others to help grub trees and pick roots.

In the winters he worked in the sawmills, one of which was Veegin's Mill, north of Buck Mountain. In 1935 he had the timber lease on the SE of 26-48-6 W5 and that winter he and Erling Lunde logged the draw, an area of about 10 acres. It later became the site of Zeiner's Mill. That summer Fred Grant sawed the timber they had logged and Doug LaRose hauled it out as quickly as possible, as that whole area was on fire. In 1937 Aubrey Zeiner Sr. got the timber lease on this quarter along with the quarter west of it, the SW 26-28-6 W5. In 1965 my dad bought these 2 quarters from Mr. Zeiner and we now use them for pasture.

In the summer of 1939 he built a small house and married Amy Johnson on Dec. 30, 1939. This little house was later bought by Hans Meyer and moved to Telfordville across from Kirchner's Garage. Jessie Rae now lives in it.



Amy & George Bentley's Wedding Dec. 30, 1939.



The 2-roomed house Amy & George lived in when they were first married. The first wash is still on the line.

Mom and Dad had 2 children; Georgina born March 10, 1942 and myself born March 22, 1944. After the war things were getting a little better and Dad bought his first tractor from Clee Hale, (the Minneapolis - Moline dealer in Thorsby) for \$1300.00, and a 3 bottom plow for \$200.00, both new for that price. This tractor was one of the few rubber-tired ones in the area.

In 1946 they built a new 3 bedroom house with a full basement and a gravity-flow furnace. The Schmidt brothers plastered and stuccoed the house in 1947.

Dadboughthis second quarter of land from Owen McDonnell in 1952 (NE 22-49-2 W5) and it was about half cleared. Wally Mertz and Adam Hartfelder were later hired to cut and pile the brush with their cat. The land was broken by Harris Fowler and the Osbak brothers, Victor and Werner.

Dad ran for county school trustee in 1955 and was elected for 7 years. About this time school buses were being put into operation and the children no longer had to walk to school.

Georgina and I both started school in Sunnybrook, from there she went to Warburg and then on through university and became a teacher. I went to Thorsby schools and then to the Olds School of Agriculture.

Georgina married Marvin Tkachuk from Edmon-



George Bentley and Family. L. to R. Marvin, Georgina, Tammy, Sandra, George, Judy, Harvey, Thad & Chris.

ton on July 28, 1967. They have 2 daughters, Tammy born May 4, 1971 and Sandra born March 26, 1974. They live near Spruce Grove where they both teach school.

I married Judy Erickson from the Sandholm district on July 10, 1964. We have 2 boys, Thad born Feb. 21, 1968 and Chris born Feb. 25, 1971. They both go to school in Warburg.

We bought the north quarter from Dad in 1965 but live on the home quarter. I farm with my dad who is semi-retired.

On Nov. 13, 1972 Mom passed away at the age of 62. She is buried in the Telfordville Cemetery.

BRANTONS



Ronald & Gordon Branton hauling cordurey poles to fix the east & west roads of section 14-48-2 W5.



Barn after completion and hog house along side later burned down.



Leonard, Ronald Branton at the Warburg Coal Mine in 1935.



foot of ladder.

Neighbors of the Leonard Brantons at their place. Richards & Semb families.

BREDEHORNS — SUNNYBROOK

by Mrs. Elli (Bredehorn) Lemke and daughter Mrs. Anna (Bredehorn) Glasere

Hermann and Elli Bredehorn emigrated from their native Germany to Canada in the year 1928, landing at the port of Halifax on March 28th. Their destination via C.P. Rail was Beiseker, Alberta. Here they worked as farm laborers for about $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. It soon became apparent that Canada truly was a rich land and the dream of owning their own property became uppermost in their minds. Mr. Fink and Mr.



Cutting grain on the Lemke farm.

Feldman of the Sunnybrook — Warburg area assisted in the search for, and the eventual purchase of, a quarter section of farmland. In the summer of 1931 the Bredehorns purchased the Frank Meincke farm located 1½ miles north of Munden's Corner near Sunnybrook. It consisted of a house, a barn and 5 acres of open land; the rest being solid bush. That first winter of 1931-1932 was extrememly cold and proved to be a real test of endurance for both man and beast.

Neighbours were invaluable in those early days as everyone lent a hand in major farm activities. In the summer the land was cleared of its trees with the grub-axe and saw; the logs being used for building shelters and for firewood. The women joined forces on berry-picking expeditions and often helped one another with the canning of fruits and vegetables, the butchering for the yearly meat supply and with the quilting of woolen or feather-down quilts.

Mr. Edstrom and Mr. Poholka were the first storekeepers. Groceries were inexpensive, however, money was very scarce so only the minimum staple items such as salt, flour or sugar were ever purchased. Two or three years later Mr. and Mrs. Borgstede became the new store owners and remained so for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Munden were our postmasters. Each week we received one German language newspaper "Der Courier" printed in Regina, Saskatchewan — a weekly event to which we always looked forward as it gave us one small link to the outside world. Our shortwave radio also helped to keep us in touch with current events.

As more settlers moved in, small church groups began to form. The Lutheran families met in the home

of Mrs. Eisbrenner, who lived approximately 2 miles northwest of Stone's Corner midway between Sunnybrook and Warburg. Pastor Wahl and one student minister from Edmonton came to lead our worship services. Shortly thereafter in 1934, a small Lutheran Church was built in Warburg and many of the Sunnybrook area people attended. Later another small church which had been moved onto Mr. Fink's farm east of Sunnybrook, was moved into Sunnybrook onto a lot donated by the Borgstede family. Now it was possible for us to attend church regularly, as we could easily walk the distance on a Sunday morning. Soon the congregation grew in numbers and more social activities were planned. Each summer a church picnic was held with visitors coming from the Warburg, Telfordville, Morrowdale and Thorsby areas. We also had a small choir and each week attended choir practice with Mrs. Albert Schmidt, now a resident of Edmonton, as our director.

Our modes of transportation varied. Most of us owned the large, high-wheeled farm wagons and often lumbered into Thorsby or Warburg for shopping. Mr. and Mrs. Schulz, our neighbors to the north, owned the first buggy and then later Mr. and Mrs. Mottl



Haying was a chore in the early days.

purchased the first car. With the buggy we were able to undertake longer trips, such as an outing to Fisher's Home on Pigeon Lake. It meant a rough journey over log corduroy roads through the swamps south of Sunnybrook, however the thought of a picnic with friends and neighbours erased all the discomforts.

In 1953, Calgary Power brought in the electricity. It certainly changed our lives. Farming for us continued for another 8 years. Then we retired to the town of Leduc. Mr. L.C. Mottl purchased our farm and still owns it today.

HARRY BROZNY FAMILY

as told by Harry

My parents were Bill and Nancy Brozny. They homesteaded a quarter on the Town Line west of Sunnybrook in 1907. It later became the home of the



Brozny Family. L. to R. John Lutczysun, Mary Hrychun, Katie, Effie Hrychun, John Kolt, Harry Brozny. Front Row: Mother, Mrs. Nancy Brozny, Julia Hrychun (aunt) Father, Bill Brozny, Nick Brozny. Children in front Fred and Frances Brozney.

Munden family. My father remembered that his trip across the Atlantic ocean took about 5 weeks because of stormy weather. Their family consisted of 2 sons and a daughter Anna. Nick was the oldest and I was the youngest.

Times were very hard then for us and sometimes we didn't see bread for 3 or 4 months. Food was provided by snaring rabbits and prairie chickens. They were very plentiful and when the birds were feeding or strutting on the ground the dogs would scare them and they would fly into trees where we boys had hung snares. They would get caught and we could easily catch and kill them.

There were many bears in those years and sometimes a bear would pull an animal down and chew several chunks out of its rump, then leave it alive. These calves, or sometimes a cow, would live for 2 or 3 days until found and put to death. If they were able to get up and walk they would come home bawling from the pain. Many of the early settlers lost some of their livestock to bears.

I picked berries for Mr. M. Maynard and he taught me the alphabet so I could learn to read. As I grew up I attended three different schools for a short time: Weed Creek, Dniester and Falconer. When the school trustees demanded some tuition I would be put out of school.



Nick Brozny and his cousin Katie Hrychun.

I remember using a team of oxen for 3 years. My brother Nick took a homestead a few miles south of us in 1912, and in 1915 Anna married Nick Kolticka and moved to his homestead across from the hamlet of Sunnybrook. In 1920 I filed on a homestead NE 15-28-2-W5. My father did not care for farming and left to go out working. My mother lived with me on my own place. When Father became older he lived with my brother Nick. He passed away in June of 1950.

I worked at many jobs and farmed on the homestead and married the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Derkacz who were neighbors of ours. Katie Derkacz and I were married in Edmonton Mar. 17, 1933 and lived on the homestead until 1934 when we moved east to a quarter of C.P.R. land I had bought from George Radowits for \$400. It was about 4 miles southwest of Thorsby and a mile south of the Town Line. At that time the road to it was really only a trail and the land was all covered with bush. My mother moved with us and spent the rest of her life with us. She died in October, 1944.

Our 9 children were raised on this farm and helped us with the heavy work of clearing it. We put up buildings and planted many spruce trees around the building site. After several years we put up a new house and now in our retirement it is very comfortable with running water and other conveniences.

In 1948 I opened a blacksmith shop in Warburg and operated it for 4 years. I also did blacksmithing at home after that. I worked as a carpenter in Hinton and Provost. I worked on the building of the Catholic school in Drayton Valley and also on the Wetaskiwin hospital. I worked on oil rigs as a roughneck and after my 65th birthday I worked in Devon until I became ill. That was the first time I was ever in a hospital.

As our family grew up they left home to go out to work, marry and start their own homes. Fred, our eldest son, married Joan Sterling and they had 5 children: Elaine, Jimmy, Gregory, Bruce and Kevin. Bruce was killed in a tragic accident in November, 1978 when he was struck by a car while walking near his home in Stettler. He was 15 years old and was going home from a curling game.

William, our second son married Deanna Hill and



Family of Harry and Katie Brozny, taken in 1977 at John's wedding. L. to R. Edwar, Andrew, John, George, Joseph, William and Fred. Seated in front: Hazel Oneski, Harry Brozney, Katie (parents) and Frances Wurban.

they live on his farm in the Morrowdale district. They have 7 children: Walter, Patricia, Dennis, Marlene, Darlene, Allan and Irene.

Our daughter Frances married Alex Wurban and they moved to Victoria, B.C. as he spent many years in the Canadian Navy.

Frances and Alex raised 8 children: Elaine, Ellen, Glen, Debbie, Cindy, Eddie, Carole and Betty. They now live in Chilliwak, B.C.

Joe, our next child worked on oil rigs after he grew up. He married Judy Glubish of Calmar and they live on their farm which is not far from William's in the Morrowdale district. They have a family of 7 children: Neil, Shirley, Larry, Susan, Henry, Bradley and Sharon. Joe still works on rigs and she and the children look after the farming.

Hazel, our youngest daughter, married Andrew Oneski, a neighbor and moved a mile up the road from us. They have a family of 3: George, Patsy and Cindy.

Our last 4 sons, George, John, Andrew and Eddie have established themselves in various jobs and places. George married and had 1 son Christopher. He makes his home in Vancouver. John married Jane Campbell and had 3 daughters: Tara, Christy and Teri Jane. They live in Claresholm, Alberta and he works in construction.

Andrew remained single and lives on his homestead near his brothers William and Joe. Eddie married Gwen Sharp and has 2 children: Lena and Eddie. He lives in Edmonton.

My brother Nick passed away and sister Anna Kolticka is a widow and lives in Thorsby.

Government records show that Wasil Podoborozny filed on SE 4-49-2-W5 in Feb. 12, 1908 and that on Nov. 9, 1910 Michael Podoborozny filed on NW 4-49-2-W5. The name Podoborozny was later shortened to Brozny.

FRANK WALTER BURROUGHS

by Frank Burroughs

Frank Walter Burroughs was born in 1891 in Grafton, North Dakota.

1904 came to Innisfail, Alberta.

1910 took a homestead in the Hand Hills.

1904 -1916 became a lather and worked in Cranbrook, Fernie, B.C. Spokane, Washington; Missoula, Montana; Iowa.

- 1916 Joined the Canadian Army. Served in England and France. Spent time on the front line as a stretcher bearer.
- 1919 Returned to Canada, became a grain elevator agent for the N. Bawlf Co., in Ranfurly, Alberta.
- 1920 Moved to Kelsey as elevator agent and bought 220 acres.
- 1922 Married Frances Hall and from this union 6 children were born: Melba, Beryl, Allyn,

Cally, Larry and Neville.

- 1942 Moved to Sunnybrook and bought grain for the Pioneer Grain Company.
- 1955 Retired in Leduc and built his own home.

1963 Frances, his wife, died.

- 1963 -1978 Spent the winters in Chilliwack, B.C. and the summers in Leduc.
- 1978 In Sept. moved to Cloverleaf Manor in Warburg.

MR. AND MRS. MARSHALL CAMERON

— 1923 - 1937

by Florence Cameron Smith

Marshall Cameron, my dad, was born in a little place called Blossom Station, in Ontario. When he was a year old the family moved to Minnesota, U.S.A. His mother died shortly afterwards, leaving a family of 8, 4 boys and 4 girls, to be raised by the oldest daughter. My dad left home at an early age following the call of the timber westward. He spent his teens as a lumberjack, mostly as a teamster, in the Priest River, Idaho area. He was a keen sportsman, a very good wrestler and boxer, and loved hunting.

My mother, whose father was a professional cook, was working with her dad at a large camp in the Priest River area, when she met my father. My mother's family came from Nebraska and settled in the Colville area in Washington. After my mother and father were married, they decided to try farming in North Dakota.

My dad came to Alberta to take up a homestead after a discouraging series of disasters on the farm in North Dakota. One year it was cholera in the hog herd, the next a disease in the cattle herd and the final blow when a devastating hail storm totally demolished a wonderful crop which Dad had planned to start harvesting the next day.

Those "glowing", "wonderful" and misleading immigration booklets sent out by the Canadian Government sounded pretty good. Other settlers of those days probably remember them.

Marshall and Nettie Cameron and family of 5 children, Florence, Dorothy, Alvin, Marshall Jr., and baby Bernice, came to Canada in the fall of 1923. They stopped for a couple of months at a small town near Regina, Saskatchewan, where Mrs. Cameron's sister Effie and her husband, Joe Mortimer and family of 2, Ronald and Genevieve lived. The 2 families came on together to Leduc and after a couple of months moved out to Sunnybrook. I remember the long, long ride in a lumber wagon.

After looking over various available lands my dad filed on a quarter 4 miles south and 1 mile east of the present town of Sunnybrook.

The Capbillion school was built in 1924, I think, on a corner of land donated by Bill Borgstede, a young bachelor at that time. We kids all went there, through grade 8, walking the 2 miles, winter and summer. The



Mrs. Florence Smith's Parents. Nettie and Marshall Cameron - 1935.

roads were just rough trails, meandering through the neighboring quarters, keeping to the highest land possible. Even so, it was usually just one mud hole after another. Horses would be up to their knees in mud much of the time. Those early years were very wet; it seemed to rain continually. Margaret Morrison was our first teacher at Capbillion and was there 2 years. She put on marvelous Christmas concerts, in our own and surrounding schools. These were the social highlights of the year. There were also dances in the various schools, card parties held in homes and I remember several toffy pulls at our place. The women also had a Ladies' Club in which my mother took keen interest.

My dad would go out harvesting in the fall, usually to Kindersley, Saskatchewan, where his 2 sisters and their husbands owned large wheat farms. During the winter he worked in the mills or cut logs on our own place. He also cut tamarack poles and hauled them to Buford or Leduc to trade for groceries. He and Mr. Zeiner worked together several years, cutting logs on contract.

My mother was a hard-working woman and a wonderful manager. Looking back, I don't know how she did it. She grew a large garden, besides helping Dad outside part of her time. She was always ready to help a neighbor in sickness or trouble, sometimes riding horseback many miles to do so. I remember her nursing Clyde Cunningham Sr. through pneumonia. She also assisted Jackie Griffin into the world. These are two instances I remember clearly, but there were many others. She belonged to the Ladies' Club for many years and worked with the Red Cross for several years.

It was slow hard work to get a few acres cleared and broken. We lost a lot of our horses with swamp fever. We found many years later, that the one horse that never got sick was a carrier of the disease, giving it to nearly every new horse we got.

We had a big garden but our only fruit was the wild berries we picked, strawberries, raspberries, saskatoons, cranberries — several kinds. Often my mom and aunt and we kids would pack a lunch and our berry pails, pile into the wagon and head out for a berry patch for the day. Mom canned dozens of quarts of fruit, sometimes without sugar, as it was scarce at the time. We would add sugar as the jars were opened during the winter. For several years Mom and we kids

picked potatoes, on shares, for our winter supply. Dad would be away harvesting at the time. I remember one year, Mom and I and my aunt hauled and stacked our crop of oats, as Dad was away working at the time and we were afraid the crop would be snowed under.

In 1927 my youngest sister, Phyllis, was born. My mother went to stay at Frank Mienke's place to be closer to the doctor. We 3 older children stayed on the farm, did the chores and went to school, I was 12, Dorothy 10 and Alvin 8. I would do the milking and the few chores while Dorothy made breakfast. Dad spent part of the time with my mom, who was very sick, and the rest with us kids. He went fishing and got a lot of fish which he salted down in a brine. We kids ate boiled fish morning, noon, and night. It was years before I could enjoy fish again. Mom was away for about 6 weeks and were we ever happy kids to have her back again, along with a cute baby sister.

A year or so later, Dad was very sick, and nearly died, with double pneumonia and pluerisy. He was a long time recovering and was never as strong again.

A few years later Dad and Uncle Joe Mortimer bought a sawmill from Archie Gilbert and went into the lumbering business until 1936, when they sold the mill. During this time, my mom ran the cookhouse. After the sale of the mill Uncle Joe and family moved to Creston, B.C. The following year 1937, my folks also sold out and moved to Creston, B.C.

My Dad passed away there in 1961 and Mom just passed away this year March 4, 1978.

I was married to Walden Smith in 1936, and we lived at Sunnybrook where Walden taught school, in what had been the Falconer School, a few years previously.

Walden and I lived in Sunnybrook for the next 9 years. He taught school, we raised pigs and kept 3 or 4 cows. Walden spent many summers at Summer School working towards his Business Education degree. During this time our 3 children, Carol, Douglas and Vance were born.

In 1946 Walden accepted the job of teaching in Winfield, so we moved to Winfield, a flourishing lumber town of many mills and planer companies. We lived there for 20 years then moved to Millet for 5 years, then purchased our present home in Wetaskiwin. Walden continued teaching in Millet, commuting from Wetaskiwin for another 5 years until his retirement 3 years ago in 1975.

He keeps busy now as a substitute teacher for the counties of Wetaskiwin, Leduc, City of Wetaskiwin and Hobbema. Walden is a Kiwanian, a board member of the Credit Union and Chairman of the Tourist Association.

Our children are married and we have 7 grandchildren. Carol married Gino Ferri, Construction Engineer. They have 3 daughters and a son, and live in Edmonton.

Darcy, a heavy-duty mechanic, married Vicki Pandachuck, they have 1 son and live in Edmonton. Vicki teaches at the Jasper Place Composite High School. Vance married Darlene Fowler. They have a son and a daughter and live in Calgary. Vance is a teacher at the Woodman Jr. High School.

My sister Dorothy, a widow, now lives in Prince George, B.C.; Alvin, Marshall Jr., Bernie and Phyllis all live at Creston, B.C.

DR. BRENDA FIFE OF WARBURG

Dr. Fife has been a very busy doctor in Warburg and the district surrounding it since her arrival here in 1955. She came from England and had practised in India and Australia before coming to Canada. During World War II she was called up by the army and stationed in north India for 2 years in a military encampment there.

Dr. Fife entered medicine at a time when women doctors were uncommon and chose the profession because it was looked upon with approval by her parents and her teachers. She has found it a very exciting vocation ever since.

She has faced many emergency situations when it was necessary to accompany a patient to a hospital in the city, sometimes having to hold an oxygen mask over his face while they were enroute and hope desperately that they would arrive there in time.

She has spent long hours in the office and then had calls to go out and attend someone sick on a farm. Her days have been long, and most of her time has been spent either in her office or on medical duties outside of it.

Patients from miles away, and many of them from Thorsby and vicinity, have called upon her for relief from pain or injury at any hour, and have always found comfort and healing.

This kindly doctor has been a familiar sight going about her duties in Warburg, and as a frequent passenger on the local Rimbey bus. She does not drive a car nor a horse and buggy as pioneer doctors did but in every other way she fulfills the doctor's role in rural areas.

In 1979 at the age of 74, Dr. Fife is to be commended and highly respected for her dedication to her profession. Having spent 50 years of her life practising medicine she has witnessed many changes in that profession, but she herself has retained the friendly concern and the rugged endurance of the doctors who served this country in the early days when there were no busses to ride nor paved roads.

TOM FREE

Tom, a younger brother of Paul's, was born in Austria in 1893. During the First World War (1915-18), being of military age, he served in the Austrian Army. In 1920 he immigrated to Canada



Tom Free on horse. Nephew Mike Free and girl that worked for Mrs.

Paul Free.

with his brother Paul, taking a homestead in the Sunnybrook area, the NW 25-48-2-W5. Tom, who never married, was known as a horse trader in his earlier days. As many other homesteaders, he had to take on other work away from home. He took on various jobs. He cleared brush from land on a contract basis, often taking horses as payment, and also worked at nearby sawmills in the winter, skidding logs from the bush to roadways where they would be loaded on sleighs and hauled to the sawmill.

Tom passed away in 1943.

PAUL AND MARY FREE

by son Peter Free

Paul was born in Austra in July 1891, where he lived until manhood. During the 1915-18 First World War, being of military age, he served in the Austrian Army the last 2 years of the war. In 1920, at the age of 29 years, he immigrated to Canada and settled in the Sunnybrook area, where he took a homestead, the S.W. 36-48-2-W5. In later years he bought the quarter across the road, S.E. 35-48-2-W5.

Mary Hushak was born in 1898, immigrated to Canada in 1925, coming to Edmonton, where she met Paul. In 1926, Paul and Mary were married in Edmonton, but made their home on the farm. There were 5 sons and 1 daughter: I was born in 1927, Mike



Paul Free, picture taken in 1924. A few years after his arrival in Canada.

in 1928, Andrew in 1929, Joe in 1930, Ann in 1932 and Fred in 1933. We attended the Sunnybrook school.

Paul remained on the farm up to the time of his passing away in 1968. His wife Mary was not so fortunate as the last 4 years of her life were spent in an Edmonton hospital, where she passed away in 1969.

Their life on the farm in those early days was hard, as it was for all the pioneers. Their livelihood depended largely on milking cows and keeping a few

hogs and chickens.

I married Patricia Edwards of England, then of Vermilion, Alta. on May 22, 1952 in Sunnybrook. We have 6 children: Gary (married to Cheryl Killaly), Barbara, single, Cheryl, married to William Krawiec, David, single, Brenda and Corenne at home. They all live in the Sunnybrook area.

Mike married Donalda Krewger from Ontario. They have 4 children: Debbie, Candice, twins, Kimberley and Karen. Mike operated a radio repair shop in Edmonton for a number of years and just recently sold the business and their home. They have moved to Victoria, B.C. to their new home.

Andrew still remains single and lives in Calgary, where he has been employed with Greyhound Bus

Lines for the past 19 years.

Joe married Helen Borgstede of Sunnybrook. They have 4 children: Joanne, Douglas, David and Michael. They live in Edmonton where Joe works for Poole Construction, as Superintendent of Construction.

Ann married Richard Zeer of Calgary. They have 4 children: Beverley, Terry, Charlaine and Bradley. They are living in Victoria, B.C. where Richard has a business.

Fred married Gladys Jackson of Edmonton. They have 5 children: Jed, Darby, Roxann, Stephan and Holly. They live in Stony Plain where Fred drives a truck.

Upon my completion of Grade 10 at the Sunnybrook school, I joined the R.C.A.F. in 1943 and served for 3½ years. Upon discharge I attended Alberta College for 2 years. In 1950 I graduated from the School of Creative Photography in Edmonton and then set up a photography shop for a period of 4 years and 10 months. In 1953, I took over the home farm from my father and moved there. To supplement my farm income, I went to work for the Pankewitz Bros., as a motor mechanic apprentice. I graduated in 1959 as a journeyman mechanic from S.A.I.T., Calgary, In 1961 I graduated as a welder from S.A.I.T., Calgary. In 1967 I graduated as an auto body mechanic from N.A.I.T., Edmonton.

The last 18 years I have owned and operated the One Stop Auto and Body Shop. My son Gary, also an

auto body mechanic, works with me.

Our business has outgrown our present shops, so a new and modern shop to accommodate 14 vehicles in all aspects of the Automotive Service is under construction and hopefully will be ready in early 1979.

ALEX AND HELEN FRYK AND FAMILY

by Helen Babiak Fryk

I was born on June 14, 1926, at Buford, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Babiak. My parents passed away at the young ages of fifty. I was 4 years of age when my father passed away and 11 when my mother passed away. From then on I grew up with my brothers and sisters, Bill, Dan, Nick and Sophia.

I walked 2 miles to Progress School. Sometimes I went on horseback, and in the winter I went with a horse and cutter. On the days I walked to school, if a blizzard came up, my brother Bill would come for me with a team of horses and a sleigh. Progress was a one-room school with grades 1 to 8. Miss Gertrude Dittrich was my teacher, and also Mr. Russel Peterson.

I left the farm in 1942 and worked in Edmonton for 2 years, 1 year at the Royal Alexandra Hospital and

1 year at Swifts.



Alex Fryk's first car, 1927 Model T Ford. Left to right: Alex, Nick, & Bill taken 1940.

On November 24, 1944, I married Alex Fryk of Glen Park. We lived in Leduc for 1 year where Alex worked on the railroad. Steady work was not available so we moved to the prairies east of Coronation. In September of 1945, we moved to Kerriemuir, Alberta, with our infant daughter June. We lived there until we moved to Castor, in September of 1947. Betty Ann, our second daughter joined our family on



Alex Fryk Family — 25th Wedding Anniversary.
L. to R. Back Row: Helen & Alex. Front Row: daughters, Betty Anne,
June, and Violet.

November 27, 1948. In September of 1949, we moved to Breton, where Alex was still employed by the C.P. Railroad

Alex decided to quit railroad work and go farming. We moved to Athabasca in the spring of 1950, where we bought a farm, but having a water shortage there and being 20 miles from town, we sold that farm. We often saw deer, also moose and at times a bear family, in our field.

We decided to live closer to our home district so bought a farm west of Sunnybrook from Ira Benham and moved there in September of 1951. There were 100 acres under cultivation. The following year we bought all our seed grain and on August 2nd, we had 100% hail. Alex returned to part-time work for the C.P. Railroad and drove to Breton to work. A few years later Alex hired John Hakstol to cut bush and break more land. We cut grain with a binder and threshed with a threshing machine until 1964.



Cutting barley in 1959 Alex on binder, Helen on tractor.

Our youngest daughter Violet was born March 8, 1954.

The first few years of farming we shipped cream. As our dairy herd expanded we shipped milk to the Warburg Cheese Factory. On July 7, 1954, there was a Dairy Field Day held on Bert Pearson's farm at Glen Park. We hadn't planned on going but Mr. Lafreniere told Alex that morning, "I think you should attend". There were prizes in the milk competition. Mr. Phil Lafreniere, manager of the Warburg Cheese Factory presented the prizes. First prize was 10 lbs. of cheese donated by the Woodland Plant and went to Alex Fryk; we were very pleased as it was our first year of shipping milk. We continued to ship milk until the cheese factory closed down; then we returned to shipping cream again.

The girls received their education and graduated from Warburg High School.

June married Ernest Naprawa and they lived on a farm near St. Francis with their three children, James, born on Aug. 4, 1965, Chantelle, born on June 20, 1966 and Bernadette born on March 13, 1968. June's marriage has been most unfortunate and she lives apart from her husband and children.

We built a new house on the farm the summer of 1966. It was a pleasure to have a stove, and an oil furnace, when we moved into th new house two days

before Christmas. We had our Silver Wedding Anniversary on November 24, 1969.

Betty Ann married Ronald Roy on July 31, 1971. They live in Sherwood Park where they bought a new home. They have one daughter Michelle Ann, born on May 17, 1976.

We sold our farm to Harry Guse in March, 1973 and had the farm sale on Saturday, May 12th. It was a successful and beautiful spring day, with a large crowd as the farmers hadn't started spring work yet.

Violet married Frank Fodor (Jr.) on June 30, 1973. They live in Warburg where they bought a new home. They have one daughter, Ramona Lee, born on July 19, 1977.

We bought a house in Leduc, very much the same as the one we built on the farm. We left on July 16, 1973, to make our home in Leduc. Alex is a caretaker at Linsford Park School. I worked for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years as a clerk at a ladies and men's wear store. We are enjoying living in town, and we visit our family often, and they visit us. Occasionally we have our grandchildren stay with us, as we enjoy them very much. On November 24, 1978, Alex and I celebrated our 34th wedding anniversary.

In 1939, I started to write to a pen pal; my sister Sophia saw her name in the "Home Loving Hearts" in the Free Press. We were only a few months difference in age. Our names were almost the same; her name was Helen Babiuk of Hairy Hill, Alberta. We corresponded until we met in Edmonton in 1943. She came to see when I worked at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. We saw each other quite often until I got married and moved away. We met again in July, 1977 in a doctor's office in Leduc. She is now Helen Lechelt, a teacher at New Sarepta, Alberta.

THE WILLIAM GRUNINGER STORY

by daughter Marion Stilet

My grandparents Dan and Mary Gruninger came to Canada from the Village of Polany in Hungary in 1926. With them, came 7 children — Don, Opal, Mike, Vic, Joe, Willie (my dad), and Emery the youngest boy. Another daughter, Mary, was born in Canada.

With hopes of making a better living they left their homeland by ship — one of the Cunard line. They landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia. They then made their way by train to Winnipeg, Manitoba. There they lived in Immigration Hall.

The Department of Immigration tried to find them land, but none seemed suitable. Then the Department and the C.P.R. sent them to Magrath, Alberta to work in the sugar beet fields.

Four Hungarian families were allotted an old house. Here they all stayed and worked for about 6 months until they could afford to build their own homes.



Bill & Liz Gruninger with their four grandchildren.

Grandpa and Grandma, with the exception of 2 sons Mike and Victor, moved to the Thorsby area in 1931. They purchased SW 16-49-2-W5 from Frank Case.

Dad in his teen years, worked for Mr. Munden who had the Sunnybrook Post Office.

In 1944 he married Elizabeth Kristel. Mom had come to Canada from Czechoslovakia in January, 1937. She was 13 years of age at the time. Mom made the journey by herself since her father had come some years before and purchased land. Her mother had passed away when she was 26, of pneumonia.

Dad and Mom took over the home quarter in 1955 after Grandpa died. Grandma continued to live with

them until her death in February, 1962.

There are 4 children. Myself, Marion, am the eldest and I married Marvin Stilet in 1967, and live 2½ miles from Mom and Dad. We have 2 children Danny and Stacy.

Betty is married to Harvey Metke and lives in the Sherwood Park area. They have 4 sons.

Donna, married to Larry Dahlgren, lives in Slave Lake where she works for the Sawridge Indian Band. They have 1 small son, Scott.

Glen, the youngest and only boy, lives at home and does most of the farming for Mom and Dad.

THE JOE GRUNINGER FAMILY

by Joe Gruninger

I was born in Austria, Hungary in 1912 to a family of 8 children and came to Canada, with my parents and family in 1926. We worked in the sugar beet fields at Magrath, Alberta for 5 years.

In 1931 my dad bought a half section of land from Frank Case, 3½ miles northwest of Sunnybrook. There were about 20 acres of land cultivated. We boys and Dad cleared the rest, which was mostly done by hand and horses.

In 1938, I married Emma Heck, who had been working for John McHugh at Michigan Centre. Emma was born at Leader, Saskatchewan, on a farm, in 1915 to pioneering parents of 9 children. Her grandparents came to Canada with a family of 10 children, from Odessa, Russia, in 1912 and settled in the Prelate, Saskatchewan area.

In the spring of 1926 Emma's parents moved to Denzil, Saskatchewan and in the fall they moved back to Compeer, Alberta. Her mother is 88 years old now and is in good health, living on her own farm together

with her son and daughter at Compeer.

In 1939, Emma and I bought a quarter of C.P.R. land for \$1200.00, the N.W. 9-49-2-W5. There were about 35 acres cleared. Our first home was a hewn log house, plastered with clay, built by Dad and us boys. We lived in it that way for about 5 years until we could afford to get it fixed up better. We had no water on that place, so we carried it by hand, up a 40 foot creek bank, day after day for several years. We cleared land in the summer and hauled logs in the winter.

By 1947, we had 5 children. Phyllis 7 and Frances 6, were ready for school, which was 4 miles from home. They walked in the summer and had to be hauled in the winter. Because it was too far to school and we had no water, we bought Harold Artindale's



The Gruninger children: L. to R. Gordon, Gerald, Phyllis, Francis, Emily. The snowman was not named.

quarter for \$4,000.00. It was the SW 34-48-2 W5 which was only ³/₄ of a mile to the Sunnybrook School. There were about 35 acres of cleared land on this quarter, and no buildings to speak of, so we moved all the buildings off our first farm, on to the second farm. We then started to clear more land until it was all cleared up.

In 1949 our youngest son, Dennis, was born. In 1958 we had a new house built on the farm by Richard



Joe & Emma Gruninger -1944, with old house in background.



L. to R. Dennis and Gordon in their new overalls.

Loleit, my brother Mike and myself. It has 999 square feet floor space and cost us \$8,000.00 complete with running water. In 1959 we bought the Mervin Munden quarter adjacent to the hamlet of Sunnybrook, for the sum of \$9,000.00, which was all cleared and broken up. In 1962, we bought the Frank Kozar farm for \$1,200.00 It was the NE 9-49-2 W5, which was almost all cleared except for a few acres that we cleared ourselves.

We were blessed with 6 children, 3 daughters and 3 sons and 16 grandchildren. Our children are all married now. Phyllis and Harry Robinson live at Thorsby. Frances and Allen Ekstrom live at Breton. Emily and Floyd Robinson live at Quesnel, British Columbia. Gerald married Carol Snider and they live at Lougheed. Gordon married Sandra Mathison and they live at Sunnybrook. Dennis married Bernice Massner and they live at Sunnybrook.

We farmed for 38 years before retiring to Thorsby in 1977 and are both enjoying good health.

THE GRIFFIN FAMILY

John Griffin, along with his brother, Arthur, arrived in Canada from England in 1911. In 1912, after having gained a full year's experience at farming in Southern Alberta they headed north to find a homestead of their own. When the 2 adventurers arrived in Wetaskiwin with their few personal possessions, a team of horses and a wagon, they had the good fortune to meet a resident of the Fern Creek area, Mr. Arthur Arp and his sons Ed and Walter. Mr. Arp suggested to the Griffin brothers that if they would accompany him to the area north of Pigeon Lake, he would show them some good land which was available. Thus, John Griffin filed on the quarter section of land near Fern Creek which was later purchased by Henry Hudson.

When the first World War came along John and Arthur saw their opportunity for more adventure. They sold their few belongings and travelled to Edmonton to join the army. After basic military training it was not too long before they found themselves in the midst of battle in France. Arthur was killed in action. John survived all the major fighting including the historic march up Vimy Ridge in April of 1917.

The year 1919, saw John back in the Fern Creek District. The war years were over and many more settlers had arrived in the area including Alexander McNab and his family. In 1922, John Griffin and



John Griffin and daughter Ellen Berwick, visiting the remains of their farmhouse built in 1923.

Jenny (McNab) LaPorte were married. Included was a ready-made family, son and daughter, Robert and Katherine LaPorte. The family took up farming in the new Capbillion School district. The home quarter section was the SE 15-48-1-W5.

Three more children were born to Jenny and John Griffin, these being daughters Frances and Ellen and son Jack. The family lived on the farm until 1941, when Mr. Griffin took over the duties of postmaster at Sunnybrook. Sunnybrook was the center of mail



Early residents, at Pigeon Lake - 1927.

Back: L. to R. Bill Borgstede, John Griffin, Jenny Griffin in front of John, Katherine La Porte in front of Jenny, to right of Kathy is Mrs. C. Cunningham Sr. Audrey Cunningham, Mrs. McNab, to the back of Mrs. McNab is son Robert McNab. The others to the back are not identified. Seated: Robert LaPorte, Francis and Jack Griffin. Far Right: Mr. McNab the other members are not identified.

distribution serving the rural route of Telfordville and the post offices at St. Francis, Fern Creek and Fisher Home.

In 1944, when Jack Griffin became of age he joined the R.C.N.V.R. and served for 2 years.

In 1948, Mr. Griffin left the post office and retired to Chilliwack, British Columbia. Memories of the mild, humid climate of England had won out over the realities of the cold harsh Alberta winters.

The opportunities for better employment prompted the remainder of the family to take up residence elsewhere. Robert LaPorte now lives in Chilliwack, Katherine in California, Frances, Ellen and Jack make their homes in Edmonton. All have families of their own and in some cases grandchildren.

Jenny Griffin passed away in 1958, and John in 1975. Both are buried in the Royal Canadian Legion Cemetery in Chilliwack, B.C.

ALBERT AND EVA GUNSCH

By Frieda, Walter and

Clarence Gunsch

Albert was born in 1910 at his mother and father's farm in the Fruitland district. He attended the Fruitland school and worked on his father's farm.

In 1933, he married Eva Schmidt, our Mom. She was born in Romania in 1915 and came to Canada with her family (Daniel Schmidt) in 1929. While living in the Thorsby district her mother passed away. Eva was only 13 years old at the time. She was the oldest of 3 girls and had 3 brothers. She quit school and took over cooking, washing, and keeping house for her father and family.

In Mar. of 1933, Mom and Dad moved to their farm 5 miles north of Sunnybrook. With the use of a team of horses and a wagon loaded with all their worldly belongings, they moved into their little one-room shack. They had no money but were hopeful and had no fear of hard work, something everyone in those days had in common. So, with grub hoes and axes, they started clearing land.

In 1934 Frieda was born. This did not stop Mom from helping Dad outdoors. She would put the baby behind a brush pile and continue piling brush and picking roots.

Through those early years there was wild game, which our dad loved hunting, also berries, and products from Mom's good, big garden. These were our staple foods. We also had the dairy products from the cows we had. Our groceries were purchased from Borgstede's General Store in Sunnybrook for many years.

In 1937 Walter was added to the family followed by Clarence in 1943.

With a family of 3 now, our 1-room house was too small so Dad, with the help of Fred Gitzel and Bill Sommor, built a new one.

As time went on, Dad bought another quarter of



The Albert Gunch Family in 1953. Freida, Albert, Clarence, Eva and Walter.



Albert and Eva Gunsch on 25th Anniversary. Albert seriously pondering, where has time gone am I getting to be that old?



The Albert Gunsch family, May 1976. Seated: Albert, Eva. Back: Clarence, Walter, Frieda. Time out for relaxation.

land, kitty-corner to the home place but kept it for pasture.

When we had grain to sell, it had to be hauled to Thorsby.

During the winter months, Dad would cut tamarack rails, get our firewood, saw and split it, and



Albert Gunsch and hunting party - 1961. L. to R. John Kolt, Oscar Gunsch, Bill Longlits, Wally Mertz, Albert Gunsch, Lawrence Theriault, Looks like no trophy for Albert.

haul home our coal supply from the Strawberry Creek.

People worked hard and endured many hardships, but had time to visit friends and neighbors like Lottridges, Morrisons, Gruningers, Fishers, Van

Alstynes and many others.

We would always attend the picnics at Telfordville and the most enjoyable event would be the Christmas concert at Port View School. Mom would dress us in our very best clothes. We would go through our parts with delight for our Mom and Dad, and go home happy with a gift and bag of candy. The ride home from the concert in the cold crisp night was something we will never forget. Everyone had bells on their horses' harnesses, and you could hear them jingling for many miles. What pleasant memories!

As time passed by, Dad was able to buy a car and better machinery which helped make work a little easier. The family was growing up and going their own

ways.

Now in 1978, Mom and Dad are still on the farm. Clarence lives there with them and works for the Dept. of Highways as well as helping on the farm.

Frieda is married to Bob Miller and lives in Wetaskiwin. They have 3 children, Randall, Rhonda, and Darrell.

Walter is married to Alma Selcho and they farm near the home place. They have 2 children, Cindy and Brian.

We often recall all the years at Sunnybrook with fondness - particularly the kindness of neighbors and friends, and all the good times we had.

JOE HERREGODTS

Joe Herregodts, his wife Gertrude, and daughter Babe, who was 11 years old, came to Sunnybrook in 1936 from Alliance, Alberta. They bought the Petrie farm 4 ½ miles southwest of Sunnybrook.

They moved into a typical log cabin but it included mice, garter snakes, open air spaces and rough board floors. During some of those early years, with corduroy roads, mud, mosquitoes and mostly bush, it was necessary to look elsewhere for employment, so they moved to Edmonton in 1948. There Joe worked for .W.W. Arcade for 3 years and in 1952 they moved back to the log cabin.

Shortly a new house was purchased and moved out from Telfordville and set up on the farm for the family

to be more comfortable in.

Capbillion School, across the road, was a one-room school with classes up to Grade 8 where Babe, Elona and Joe Jr. attended for their primary schooling. Joe Jr. recalls the old one-room with the pot belly stove in the middle and the desks all fastened together in rows.



Joe Herregodts Sr. residence. Summer of 1965.

There were 4 children in the family, Mary Ann (Babe), Elona, Joe and Ronald.

Babe married Earl Zeiner of Sunnybrook and they have 4 children; Darlene, Richard, Jim and Theresa.

Elona married Allan Nessel of Edmonton and they have 2 children; Keith and Robert.

Joe Jr. married Doreen Elmore of Warburg. They have 1 child, Carolyn.

Ron married Leslee Vaage of Leduc and they have

a family of 2, Leanne and David.

In 1967 Joe and Gertrude sold the farm and retired to Chilliwack, B.C. They shortly moved back to Alberta and settled in Leduc. Joe passed away suddenly in Nov. 1975 and Gertrude continues to reside in Leduc.

THE CHARLES O'RIELLY FAMILY

Mr. & Mrs. Charles O'Rielly were the parents of Gertrude Herregodts and they came to the Sunnybrook area in 1940 and ran a second-hand machinery business in Sunnybrook.

During the war years Charles worked away from their home and after the war they bought the John Griffin farm. It was 4 miles south of the town of Sunnybrook. Upon their retirement they purchased the Waldon Smith property in town and moved there.

Charles passed away in Sept. 1959 and his wife

Frieda passed away in Sept. 1966.

THE CARL KEEVEL STORY

By Hertha Ollenberg

Carl Keevel was born in Lithuania in 1899 and came to Canada in 1929. Having a sister in Sunnybrook, he joined her family on the farm which was 1 mile north of Sunnybrook. Being a very handy carpenter for which work was in demand, he didn't find it very hard to find a job. He worked in lumber camps in the winter. Whenever jobs were scarce and he couldn't find one, he made his home at his sister's place and helped with the farming.

In 1935 he started farming on his own and bought his land from the C.P.R. near Sunnybrook, NE 3-49-2-W5. On this quarter of land there was only a small shack consisting of 2 rooms with a few wooden benches and a table. It was heated by a coal and wood burning stove. He was a good housekeeper and kept things neat doing his cooking and washing along with usual daily chores. There was very little land cleared so each year he worked hard until it was all under cultivation except for 20 acres of swamp. Every spring came the job of picking rocks which had to be done. He started with a team of horses and second-hand machinery and kept a few pigs to raise and sell. He also milked 4 or 5 cows and sold a lot of cream.



Left to right: Anna and Mrs. Lemke, Carl and Linda Keevel and daughter, Edna - 1944.



Carl Keevel and Edna in front of house - 1946.

Carl was single until 1939 when he married Linda Miller of Millet. Their daughter Edna was born in 1941 and that meant an addition to their home, so they built a new house.

In 1947 a sister-in-law from New Haven, Conn. U.S.A. came to visit them for about 6 weeks. During her stay she enjoyed helping them with the farm work.

Carl's brother Gustav, his wife Martha and 5 year old son Eric from Germany joined them on the farm until Gus found employment with the Schmidt brothers in Morrowdale, stuccoing and plastering in the surrounding districts. He worked for them for several years until he moved to Edmonton, working there until retirement.

In 1950 Carl bought a house in Edmonton and rented his land to John Fritz and moved to Edmonton where he worked as a finishing carpenter which was a lot easier then farming.

When Alfred Scheetz and Dolores Pahl were married in 1957 they rented his farm and moved onto it. They lived there until Carl sold it in 1963 to M. Watz.

Due to ill health Carl was placed in a nursing home where he spent a year or two before his death in Jan. 1971.

His daughter Edna lives in Edmonton.

MR. & MRS. FRED T. KOSTYK SR.

by Phyllis Kostyk Jakowicki

Fred Kostyk Sr. was born on Mar. 2, 1903 in Mienkish Stare, Poland. He went into the army in 1924 and served in it for almost 3 years. After his army service, he left for Canada. Fred arrived at Calmar, on Feb. 14, 1927. He worked for 2 years, then purchased a farm, 1 mile east and 2 miles south of Sunnybrook, Fred built the house on his farm in 1929. He met Katherine Kozak and they were married on Nov. 18, 1931 in Edmonton.

Katherine Kostyk (nee) Kozak was born on July 4, 1906 in Pow Yaworow, Poland. She came to Canada on Sept. 20, 1930, arrivng at Bruderheim. There she went to work for 1 year. The pay at the time was \$10 a month.

Fred and Katherine moved to the farm S.W. 25-48-2 W5 at Sunnybrook and started clearing land by hand. By looking at the farm now, it is hard to believe that it was solid bush when they started to farm. By working hard and saving, they bought another farm, just north of the home place. They had a family of 3 children: 2 boys, Fred Jr. and Mike, and 1 daughter Phyllis. They sent the children through school and all 3 got married. Then in 1969 Fred and Katherine decided to retire. They had a new house



The Fred Kostyk Sr. Family in 1966. Son-in-law, Fred Jakowitski, Wife, Phyllis (Kostyk) Jakowitski, Dad, Fred Sr, Mom, Katherine, Mike, Daughter-in-law, Sarah, Fred the 2nd, Kathy, Faran, Fred the 3rd, Sandy.



Phyllis Kostyk Wedding to Fred Jakowick - 1966. L. to R. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kostyk Sr. Bride and Groom, Groom's Parents Mrs. John Laba and John Laba.

built in Thorsby and moved there. The farm was purchased then by their son, Mike, who is still farming it.

After completing school, Fred Jr. went to work in the oil field. A year or so later he travelled to the United States and still continued working in the oil business. In New Castle, Wyoming he met Sarah May. Fred and Sarah were married on Oct. 11, 1954 at Rapid City, South Dakota. They then travelled overseas to where Fred's job awaited him. When they returned from overseas, they resided at the Four Corners area of the United States. Fred was still working for the oil company.

In 1960, Fred, Sarah and their 2 children moved to Canada. They resided at Sunnybrook, and Fred went to N.A.I.T. for 2 years to upgrade his Engineering techniques. Then in 1965 Fred and Sarah bought a farm near Sunnybrook and started farming. The old Capbillion school was moved to this farm and they made a shop of it. Fred owns 3 quarters and rents a lot of land. Right now Fred and his son farm aound 1500 acres of land. Fred has been working part time in the winter months as an engineer for Shell Canada for the last 7 years. Fred and Sarah have a family of 5 children whose names are Kathy, Fred, Faron, Sandra and Sharon. Their chilren all attended the Warburg School.

With farming in his blood, Mike decided to leave school after grade 9 and help out at home. A few years later, he got a chance to operate a service station in Edmonton. He liked the job very much, but he still wanted to try something more challenging. So he went in for an Electrical Technician. He did mainly oil field wiring around Lodge Pole, Cynthia and Rocky Mountain House. Mike stayed with this job for about 10 years. Then he quit and got married on Aug. 30, 1963. They resided on the home place and started dairy farming. They milked around 30 cows. After 15 years of dairy farming, Mike decided to sell the cows and go strictly into grain farming. Mike took over the farming operation of his parents upon their retirement. He now farms 2 quarters of land and has 1 daughter, Tricia.

When Phyllis completed her grade 12 in Thorsby, she wnet to work in Edmonton. She worked in the

Credit Office of the university Hospital. Phyllis worked there for about 2 years before she married Fred Jakowicki of Calmar, on Oct. 16, 1965. They purchased a farm near Calmar and are farming. Fred is also working for K.R. Ranches which is located north west of Calmar. He started as a farm foreman and now is managing the whole farming operation himself. He has been working there for 13 years now. Phyllis is a Domestic Engineer and is also doing the books for K.R. Ranches. Fred and Phyllis have a family of 2 daughters, whose names are Christine and Kathy. The girls are attending Calmar School.

THE GUS MASER FAMILY

by Gus Maser

I came to Canada with my parents, the Fred Masers and my older brother and a sister. We came in Sept., 1912 and stopped in the Millet district. Here we lived in a log house where I grew up. Then we moved to the Leduc district.

At the age of 19 I got a homestead at Newbrook and built a little frame shack on it. I started to clear



In background is dog wheel, used for pumping water. It is powered by a dog running inside wheel, they were trained to work the wheel by themselves

land and stayed there for 5 years. Then I sold out and went away to work at different places for a year.

In 1939, I bought a quarter of land, the SW 26-48-2-W5, from the Hudson's Bay Co. It is 1½ miles south of Sunnybrook. Here again, I started from scratch, built a little log shack and cleared land with an axe and grub hoe. Every year I made a little more land and after a few years built a bigger shack.

In 1950 Anna Pekarchick came to Canada with her young son John. The following year we were married and our family grew to 2 more sons and 2 daughters.

I worked for 17 years for the Dept. of Highways at Warburg and we farmed.

Our son John married Barbara Risser of Warburg. They live in Leduc and have 2 daughters. Eddy works in construction. Gordon also works in construction. He has his own house in Warburg. Betty our eldest daughter is married to Keith Blize of Breton and they live there. They have 1 son. Donna is still at home and



Gus and Anna Maser's 25th Anniversary.

attending Warburg High School.

I retired from the Highways Dept. in 1976 and we are retired here on the farm. A few years ago we purchased a new mobile home and set it up here. We are quite comfortable with all modern conveniences. We spend most of our time travelling and relaxing and enjoy ourselves.

MASER FAMILY TREE

Gustav Maser's parents were Fred and Marie Maser. Fred was born July 1883 and died May 15, 1955. Marie, born Jan. 27, 1887 is still living. Their children were born:

Julius Dec. 26, 1908 Martha July 5, 1910



Maser Family 1932. L. to R. Martha Maser, Fred Maser, Emily Maser, Gus Maser. Front Row: Esther, Walter, Ella. Joe and Adloph missing from picture.

Gustav	Feb. 22, 1912	Emma	Jan. 15, 1914
Fred	April 4, 1915	Emily	July 9, 1916
Adolf	Oct. 12, 1917	Esther	April 19, 1920
Ella	Jan. 8, 1923	Walter	Nov. 13, 1925

Gustav Maser's wife, Anna Pekarchik's parents were: George Pekarchik born on April 24, 1895, Matilda Odush born Jan. 5, 1895. They came from Czechoslovakia in 1927 to Canada. George Pekarchik died on Feb. 3, 1979.

WILLIAM AND SARAH McDONNELL

as told by daughter-in-law Nell McDonnell

William McDonnell was born in Ireland and came to Canada as a little boy. His family made their home in Montreal. Sarah was born in Glengary, about 50 miles from Montreal and went to work in Montreal when old enough. There she met William and they were married. They had a family of 5 children, Mamie, Sadie, Bill, Rod and Owen. Their oldest child was 14 when they came west to Halkirk, Alberta in 1910. Here they stayed for a year and then moved to Edmonton where William followed his trade as a gardener at Alberta College. He did landscaping at the Parliament Buildings as well. They lived in the city for 3 years and then moved to Leduc and lived with Sarah's uncle for 2 years, then moved to Telfordville.

In early 1916 their oldest son Bill went overseas to serve in the First World War. His father died just after he left. Sarah stayed and raised the other children. She was not able to pay for their farm and so took a homestead instead and moved onto it in 1928 with her two sons Bill and Owen. Bill was not able to do much heavy work after he returned from the army. Later he married Mabel Stone and they moved into Edmonton.

Sarah went to Leduc to care for her uncle until he died and lived there afterwards until she suffered a stroke and was unable to care for herself. She sold the place in Leduc and moved back to her son Owen's home near Sunnybrook where she made her home until entering a hospital where she died about 1958.

Owen had married Nell Scobie in 1934 and they farmed 4 miles from Sunnybrook for a number of years. In the winter he would take a team of horses and sleigh and go up on the Strawberry Creek and dig coal. He sold it to people from all over; some would come to the creek to get it and some he delivered. Farmers would come for miles for coal during the winter. In the fall he went threshing and his wages went to pay his own threshing bill and to buy winter clothes for his children. Owen and Nell had 9 children: Helen, William (Bud), Tom, Mary, Margaret (Perry), Ken, Cathy, Marion and Terry. They had 4 miles to go to Sunnybrook School and later on a school bus passed their gate, making it much easier as they didn't have to drive anymore.

In 1956 their house burned down and they moved into another home about one quarter of a mile away. Here the family lived for a short time and then moved into Sunnybrook and sold their farm. Owen went out to work for wages. Most of their family had grown up and left home by then. Owen became sick and was unable to work after a time and passed away in the fall of 1970. He was the last of the William McDonnell family that had started out in Quebec.

Nell, his widow now makes her home in Warburg and has been there for the past 7 years. She is a long time resident of the area as her parents came to the Telfordville district in 1925.

Owen and Nell's family are scattered. Helen

Nicoll lives in Edmonton, Bud is in Rainbow Lake, Tom lives in St. Albert, and Mary Rieser lives in Bluffton. Margaret Giebalhaus lives in Leduc, Ken recently moved to Edmonton, Cathy is married to Darrold Dahl and remains in Sunnybrook. Marion Bobrownik lives in Tomahawk and the youngest, Terry, is still home with his mother in Warburg. There are 27 grandchildren in the Owen McDonnell family.

THE HARRY MEINCKE FAMILY

by Donald Meincke

Dad was born in Pinsauki, Wisconsin, U.S.A. and moved to Mountain, Wisconsin where he lived when he married my mother Jessie Case.

Dad came to Leduc in 1912 - just to see what the country was like. In 1916 Dad, Mother and my two sisters, Ethel and Lillian moved to Leduc. While in Leduc, he filed on a homestead two miles west of Sunnybrook that he paid \$10.00 for. This gave him the title for the land. While they lived in Leduc, he was a carpenter and he built various buildings. His brother Frank came from Wisconsin about that time also and as there was enough work for both of them, and Dad needed the help, they built many different buildings. Some of them I recall were Style's Lumber Yard, old Cohen's store, Telford's house and many more buildings for the farmers in the area.

Then in 1918 we moved west to the homestead, where our first home was a log house. I was only 9 months old at the time. My dad's brother Frank also got a homestead north west of Sunnybrook. They both continued to do carpentry work and at the same time were trying to make improvements on their farms. While homesteading, he again built many buildings. I can't remember them all but some that I do remember were the Capbillion School, Genesee School, Koppang's store in Warburg, also Menue's house in Warburg which was near the elevator, the elevator was operated by Charlie Menue, at the time. Munden's garage and barn, the house on the old Case farm, Sunnybrook Post Office, Borgstede's house in Sunnybrook, a house in Breton for Sam Hooks, and the original Sunnybrook hall on the banks of Hudson Bay Creek. Dad and his brother also did some building in Telfordville including some log houses and barns.

When he built the Genesee School he boarded at Greenhoughs, who were also among the first settlers of that area. Dad made various coffins and rough boxes while Mother would make the linings for the coffins. Mother was also a mid-wife for quite a number of women in the area.

I remember when the folks had to go for groceries to the Breton brothers store. They would travel on horse-back or go with the wagon. Times were hard but we managed as we had our own garden and our own meat. I also remember when Dad would complain that butter was cheaper than axle grease.



Holding down the 1926 Chev is: R. to L. Clarence Richards, Eric Dalgren, Donald Meincke, Harry Meincke. Now lets have some moosic.

I remember the many times Mr. Gaetz would come out on business from Leduc with a horse and buggy. I was only tall enough to see out the window over the window sill but I used to look forward to his coming. He would stay overnight and he would give me a penny or so. He was the grandfather of Clare and Gordon Gaetz from Leduc.

Some of the people in the district, when the foks moved out there, were the Ladds, Arps, McKinneys, McNabs, Petries, Blues, Mulligans, Numas, Dottis, Mundens and the Scotts. The people in the country were all very friendly and everybody helped each other as best they could when help was needed. My parents were very good people.

My dad used to play for dances at the Dniester School and the Capbillion School. Dad played the violin or guitar, Bob Petrie played violin, his brother George the guitar and their father also played the guitar. Dad also played for other dances with a very good accordian player, Halver Halverson, and Nels Koppang. We had many dances at our house before the hall was built.

My sisters and I went to the old Sunnybrook School. My first teacher was a Mr. Stenhouse. When Falconer School was built in 1925, I went to school there. The first teacher was Miss Florence McGillivray, then Ralph McCready and my last teacher was Beresford Munden.

Ethel married Clarence Richards, Lillian married Eric Dalgren from Genesee and I married Mina Schmidt from Warburg.

My wife and I stayed on the farm and both of our children were born on the home place. Dr. Hankin,



L. to R.: (baby) Kenneth Dalgren, Lill Dalgren, Ethel Richards, Jessie Meincke, Donald Meincke, Eric Dalgren, Harley Dalgren.

from Thorsby, came out both times. The weather was very cold and we would cover his car with blankets to keep it warm. If he was early he would try to catch a wink of sleep. He must have been a very strong man to keep up the pace he did, for so many years as he had such a large territory to cover.

My mother sold the farm after Dad passed away in 1941. Lillian passed away in 1968 and Ethel is in a Nursing Home in Leduc recovering from a stroke she had 2 years ago.

My children are all married and live in the Edmonton area. Mina and I live in Edmonton and are just about ready to retire. We still go out to Sunnybrook and to Warburg during the summer months and see a lot of the people that we know. That area will always be home to us.

MATHEW AND LIL MEYERS

by daughter Mrs. Stanley Krawiec

Mathew Meyers, better known as "Slim" to the people of Sunnybrook, came in 1955 to operate the Pioneer Elevator. The elevator was powered with a gas engine that putted away endlessly during the busy time of the year. While waiting for the Bill Rieve family to leave the company house, we lived in the best ventilated one in the area. Slim was also a blacksmith and did work in the shop at the Pankewicz garage. Lil worked in the old hotel in the restaurant for Mrs. Rice for about 3 years. After the hotel was destroyed by fire and the new one was erected, she worked in their

coffee shop part time.

I began my education in Sunnybrook. The things of bygone days that come to mind are; the school picnics, field days and hiking, track meets, County music festivals, school parties and the Christmas concert with the candy bags. Because of the small number of children in each class, grades 1, 2, and 3 were taught by 1 teacher; grades 4, 5 and 6, by another and 7, 8 and 9 by the Principal. We all participated in sports like football, softball and soccer. We had a few star females on the football team. By the time I got to grade 9, centralization was taking place and the class was bused to either Warburg or Thorsby, depending on where you lived. Those in the hamlet of Sunnybrook were bused to Warburg, the line being east of Sunnybrook.



Slim & Lil Meyers - 1966.

Dad retired in 1967, and he and Mom moved to Wetaskiwin.

My brother Wallace and his wife Vera, came to Thorsby. He operated the Pioneer Elevator and Vera was the secretary at the High School. Their four children, Sharon, Shirley, Janet and Alvin all attended school in Thorsby until he was transferred in 1970.

TEACHERS AT THE SCHOOL IN SUNNYBROOK

by Mrs. Stanley Krawiec

Mr. Ed. Krukowski was principal, Miss Shirley Pailer was the grade 1-3 teacher in 1955. Mrs. Newhart taught grades 1-3 in 1956. Mrs. Mildred McAllister taught grades 1-3 in 1957. Miss Anna Bredehorn taught grades 4-6 from 1958 to 1962. (She is now Mrs. Anna Glasere, and teaches in Leduc). Mr. John Kvill and Mr. Williams were one time principals. Mr. Shupenia taught in 1962-1963, as principal. Mrs. Elsie Tomaszewski taught grades 7 and 8 in 1963-1964.

DANIEL AND BERTHA MOGDAN

written by Linda Kisser

Dan was born in 1907, in Poland. He later lived in Germany then came to Canada, coming to the Leduc area in 1928. He joined his brother William whom he hadn't seen since 1912. Their parents, brothers Karl and Ralph, sisters Olga and Adele also came over and were all united with William.

Dan worked in the Leduc area for several years then came west to the Sunnybrook district in 1933. He bought a farm 2 miles west and 4 miles south of Sunnybrook. In 1933, he met Bertha Brier of Breton while picking blueberries. Bertha was born on Dec. 26, 1916 and had come to Canada with her parents Frederick and Leokadia Brier and her sister Linda in 1928, from Poland. The Briers were farming in the Breton-Funnell district.

In November of the same year they were married in the Breton United Church. Dan abandoned the farm south of Sunnybrook and bought another 1 mile east and 2½ north of Sunnybrook. He bought it from Dan Mackenzie of Leduc. On this farm Dan and Bertha struggled through all of the Depression years, as did all of the neighbors.

They were blessed with 5 children, Linda Ruth, born on March 27, 1935, Elva Thelma Edith born Feb.



Back: Ollie, Arnold, Elva Mogden. Seated: Bertha (mother) & Sherry - 1964

9, 1940, Olga Hilda born April 7, 1941, Arnold Frederick born Oct. 19, 1943 and Sherry born March 17, 1955.

In the fall of 1960, they held an auction sale, sold their farm to Ed Zukowski and moved to Kelowna, B.C. By this time all but one (Sherry) of their children were on their own and did not move to Kelowna with their parents.

The Mogdan family was deeply saddened in Feb.



Herb Knopp, Ruth (Mogden) Knopp holding Judy, Wm. Schultz, Great Uncle to Ruth, Mrs. Schultz of Kelowna, B.C. Seated: Mr. & Mrs. King of Kelowna, B.C. Grandparents of Ruth - 1956.

1963, when their oldest daughter Linda Ruth died suddenly. She had married Herb Knopp in April, 1952 and they had 3 children, Judy, Allan and Bernie.

Tragedy struck the family again in 1964, when Dan passed away from a heart seizure leaving Bertha and Sherry alone.

With the rest of her family back in Alberta, Bertha moved back to Edmonton. In 1966, she married Arthur Ruff of Dauphin, Manitoba, and went there to live. Six years later she was again a widow when Art died in 1972.

Elva is married to William Kenyon and they live in Cardston, Alberta. They have 2 sons Corey and Todd.

Ollie (Olga) and her daughter Charlene live in Edmonton. Arnold lives in Edmonton and is employed there.

Sherry is married to Harold Washulewski and they have 3 daughters, Cathy, Cindy and Cherielyn. They too live in Edmonton.

Bertha has remarried and she and her husband Roy Ferster live in Edmonton.

CHARLES MOTTL FAMILY

By Lumir Mottl

As the saying goes "Olden Days are Golden Days"! I don't know how many people would go back to them now, especially the younger generation. Most of us would be lost without a switch to flick, a button to push or a tap to turn. The water was there, but you had to run and get it, as was the heat, but you had to start the fire instead of turn on the gas. Even so, they were "Good Old Days".

My Dad "Charles" brought us over from Czechoslovakia in 1930. He was told of good land for homesteading near Lethbridge; but when arriving there, the bald prairie with its wind did not appeal to him or the family. C.P.R. agents told them of land with trees on it where you could build all your farm buildings and then have land to seed when you used the trees. So north they came and settled in the Sunnybrook district.

.Now the folks didn't know a thing about farming, as Dad was a factory worker, so this was all new to us. There were neighbors nearly a mile away who helped us get things organized as to horses and machinery, ways to go about grubbing the trees, and how to harness a horse. Needless to say, these were trying days as mistakes are made when you know what you're doing, but you haven't the foggiest idea how to do it. You even put the harness on the horse backwards. It won't tell you it's on wrong either, it will either buck or run away. There were many calluses on Dad's hands the next few years and the sweat poured and muscles ached for all of us.



Hauling hay in the 30's, we do not do it that way now. Mrs. Mottl & Carry on load, Lumir Mottl holding horses.



Fink's threshing machine at Mottl's - 1938. In wagon L. to R. Annie Kozar, Mr. C. Mottl, Lumir Mottl, Frank Kozar Jr., Frank Kozar Sr. and Gary Mottl.

When we came in 1930, the folks met Mr. Daruda and his family. He was a very good carpenter and since neither family had a house to live in, they got together and lived in one house that Mr. Coyne let them use.

The first winter was all logging, cold, and hard work. You had to really have your heart set on a real future, as did all pioneers. The land was cleared, logs were sawn, and by spring of 1931 a new house was built for each family. Some crop was sown and a garden, giving us enough to eat and work on. As the years went by new neighbors arrived, Steve Schultz,



Charles Mottl Family - 1940. Charles, Mary, Cary, Lumir.

Herman Bredehorn, Julius Scheetz, Adolph Ollenberg, among others. Then the work went better; there was more help to do bigger jobs, we'd help each other with machinery, borrow this and that until you could afford to buy it yourself.

Progress was slow but sure. I can remember our first car, must have been around 1936 when Dad and Louis Worshek went to Edmonton and brought home a beautiful 1928 Chev. Louis taught Dad how to drive it on the way home. When he arrived home, it was whoa! whoa! but this thing didn't listen like the horses. Luckily he remembered it was a car and had a clutch and brakes before he hit the barn.

Then the War came. I was too young to join; but my sister Cary and her 2 girl friends, Elsie Branton and Holly Arnold, joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps. In 1944 I went to school in Edmonton getting my high school education and 1 year of reserve army training. In 1948 I came back to start farming with Dad. By then it was tractor time and the work was much easier.

In 1955 I married Millie Pichler of Dniester. We settled down on the home place where we still are.



Lumir Mottl Family, Nov. 1974. Seated: Millie & Lumir. L. to R. Sandra, Marlene, Gale.

Dad passed away in 1956 and Mom in 1962. They both worked hard so that we could have it easier. I guess that is the way of life and it's passed on from generation to generation.

Millie and I raised 3 girls of whom we are proud. Gale is married to Alvin Miller, Marlene married

Wayne Bablitz, and Sandra is in Grade 12.

THE M.S. MUNDEN FAMILY

By son Arnold E. Munden

My father, Mervyn S. Munden, and my mother, Carrie T. Munden, moved to the Sunnybrook district in May 1916 to a homestead SW 33-48-2 W5 and lived there until the spring of 1921 when we moved to the SE 4-49-2-W5 which was on the Town Line west of the hamlet of Sunnybrook. We called this the home place and it was known as Munden's Corner to passersby. The house we lived in still stands but is empty now as the farm was sold some years back.

My father took over the Sunnybrook Post Office from Frank McCready in 1916 and went every 2



Marvin S. Munden & his team. Ready to go for the mail at Thorsby - 1917. Man standing is unidentified.

weeks by horse and buggy to Mr. Sahlstrom's farm several miles east and north to bring the mail. Mr. Sahlstrom had the post office of Thorsby at his home, as at that time there was no railroad nor town of Thorsby. After this, Ole Anderson from Warburg hauled the mail for Warburg and Sunnybrook from the Buford Post Office which was run by L.O. Anderson. Later, but prior to 1925, the Warburg and Sunnybrook mail came from Telfordville and was hauled from that post office by Fred Van Alstyne. This continued until the mail started coming in by train almost 5 years later.

In 1924 Dad bought the Rawleigh agency from Frank Kingzette of Wetaskiwin. Part of the time my mother's brother Arnold Matson travelled the Rawleigh wagon around the country. It was a most welcome sight to the settlers who lived so far from a store and relied on him for certain supplies. Medicine for sick farm animals was carried by the Rawleigh agent and he was also a source of news in the community as he went from place to place. I quit



M.S. Munden and Rawleigh rig in front of our house in 1924.

school at the age of 14 and used to travel with the Rawleigh rig part time and in this way met and became friends with many wonderful people.

I met Rachel Morrison when she came to teach school in Sunnybrook and she later became the first teacher in Warburg, teaching in the Lutheran log church. We were married in July of 1939. Dad sold the Rawleigh agency to Halverson about 1940.

There were 3 boys in our family, the oldest Castle, died of typhoid fever in Jan. 1925. Beresford went through school and became a teacher and taught his first year at the Falconer School. He married Marjorie Koppang in 1933 and they have a family of 3 children; Weldon, Beverley and Dorial.

Beresford and I both served overseas during the 2nd World War. After his return they moved to Keremeos, B.C. He died there very suddenly in August, 1976.

Rachel and I moved to Edmonton in 1952 where I worked for the city until May 1974 when I retired. Rachel taught until 1971 when she quit to be home with mother who lived with us. Dad passed away at the age of 73 in 1961 and my mother was 83 when she passed away in 1973. They are buried in the Munden family plot in Warburg Union Cemetery.

Rachel and I are enjoying retirement in Port Washington, B.C. where we do a lot of travelling.

HISTORY OF THE NORGAARDS

by Sharon Austin and Linda Giroux

The Norgaard's home farm is located 1½ miles east of Sunnybrook; their other quarter section which they still refer to as the "homestead", is located 2½ miles south of Sunnybrook. This farm was homesteaded by Maria Kowal, Rose Norgaard's mother.

Maria and Michael Kowal came from the Ukraine about 1905 and homesteaded on a farm about 22 miles west of Leduc. The house the Kowals built on their homestead was made of logs hewed on the inside to

give more light, and had a hewed floor. Lumber was used only for the door and window frames. The walls were chinked between the cracks with clay to keep the cold from coming in. Michael Kowal made the stove from home-made clay bricks, and lumber was used for the table, benches, beds, and shelves. They worked hard clearing and cultivating what land they had and tending their stock and gardens. Maria was busy all summer salting rabbits and pickling them in a barrel so they would keep. Along with this they had barrels of sauerkraut and cottage cheese when there was milk. Their first vegetables were mainly potatoes, cabbage, beets, and winter onions, the seeds of which she had brought from the homeland. The Kowals sold this homestead and went to live in Leduc where Michael got work as a carpenter. On Feb. 20, 1913, Rose Kowal was born in Leduc. Three months later, Maria Kowal was left a widow with 5 children: Marie, John, Annette, Peter, and Rose,

Although there was no widow's pension or assistance of any kind, Maria managed to support her family by keeping livestock, and growing a huge garden on her lots in Leduc. She also took in roomers and did washing for the wealthier businessmen's wives for about 50¢ a day. Her 2 oldest children, Marie and John were a great help to her.

When Rose was still very young, Maria Kowal took out the homestead in Sunnybrook. She was a very courageous and hard-working woman, and managed to keep her house in Leduc and the homestead too. The log cabin that they built there was still standing until about 1960 when it was destroyed by fire. John, at the age of 77 is the only surviving member of the Kowal family.

Jorgen Petrus Norgaard was born in Denmark on Sept. 14, 1903. He came to Canada in search of adventure in 1926 at the age of 23. Jorgen, better known as John, decided to go up north after a friend told him of the beauty of the North West Territories and the trapping there. He trapped along the Nahanni River, and in the Headless Valley of the Nahanni, so-named because of the McLeod brothers who were found dead and headless there in the early 1900s. He trapped successfully in the Headless Valley, alone, and at times with partners until 1937. In July, 1937 Jorgen Norgaard flew out to Edmonton where he met Rose Kowal. They were married shortly afterwards and she returned with him to the Nahanni, where they lived for 2 years. Neil Norgaard was born in August of 1938. He was the first white baby born at Nahanni Butte, or Mount Nahanni as some called it.

In 1940, Rose and Jorgen returned from the north to settle down on their home farm $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Sunnybrook on the Town Line. This farm belonged to John Kowal, Rose's brother, who sold it to them for \$1000. Jorgen Norgaard built on to the granary that was there, and this became a snug home in which they raised 4 children.

They made a living having a mixed farm with cattle, hogs, and some poultry. They had cows for milk, and



Jorgen and Rose Norgaard taken about 1965.

sold cream to the creamery. Jorgen worked the land with horses, planting grain and making hay for the cattle. In the fall he would work on threshing crews, and in return his crop would be threshed. Jorgen was on the mail route for several years and would deliver mail by horse and wagon to the Telfordville area. He was very glad to get his first tractor which he found more dependable than horse. The Norgaards' first car was a Model T, Durant.

Jorgen Norgaard was known as a very honest and fair man, and a good neighbor. Rose was a quiet, gentle person; a devoted wife and mother. They believed strongly in honesty and education and all 4 of their children went to the U of A to become teachers.

The Norgaard children walked 2 miles to Sunnybrook school; a three-room school covering grades 1 to 9. Joanne received a provincial scholarship for her marks in grade 9. Linda also received a



Children of the John and Rose Norgaard family. L. to R. Sharon Norgaard Austin, Joanne Norgaard Benger, Neil Norgaard, Linda Norgaard Giroux.

scholarship in grade 9 for the best marks of her class. From Sunnybrook, they all went on to Thorsby High School where Joanne and Sharon were yearbook editors.

Neil Norgaard attended S.A.I.T. where he studied automotives. He became a licensed mechanic, then attended the U of A where he became a teacher of automotives. He attended Bible School at Prairie Bible Institute, in Three Hills, and C.B.I. in Prince Albert, Sask. Neil is married to the former Marlene Nelson from Malmo, Alberta. They own a home in Red Deer where Neil is employed, and have 2 sons: Erik Nelson age 7, and Karl Andrew age 2.

Joanne Marie Norgaard graduated from T.H.S. in 1959. She taught school in Genesee, Grouard, and Acme, Alta., Holberg, B.C., Halifax, N.S., Saint John, N.B., Rivers, Man., and Kenora, Sask. She returned to university and received her Bachelor of Education degree. She is now Mrs. John Benger, and is presently living on the J. and J. Benger farm near Drayton Valley. She has a step-son, Barry. Joanne is now busy with a career in writing. She has had one book published and is working on another. She has also had many short stories and poems published in various magazines.

Linda Christine Norgaard graduated from .TH.S. in 1962. She taught school in Aklavik and Fort Rae, N.W.T. Linda returned to university to take 1 year of fine arts, then taught in New Sarepta and Thorsby. She is now Mrs. Gerrald Giroux and is living on the home farm in Sunnybrook. They have 2 children, Shaun Paul aged 7, and Marie Angelique Dawn, aged 1. Linda is not teaching now, but is doing lovely oil paintings.

Sharon Rose Norgaard graduated from T.H.S. in 1967. She taught for 1 year in Thorsby elementary school. She is now, Mrs. Donald Austin, living on an acreage in Musquash, N.B. They have 2 children; Christopher Edward 4, and Shyanne Rose 2. Sharon is not teaching now but is also trying her hand at writing. She has been home to Alberta 4 times to visit her family.

Jorgen Norgaard passed away Aug. 18, 1968 at the age of 64. Rose stayed on the farm for 2 more years, then moved to Leduc. The farmhouse was rented out



Rose Norgaard, decked in some of the furs, that may have been caught when John was a trapper.

for 8 years until Linda returned to live there in Sept, 1978. Rose Norgaard passed away in Leduc Hospital on Oct. 27, 1977 at the age of 64 years. Before her death she wrote up, in rough, her memoirs as a pioneer daughter and as the wife of a Nahanni trapper. This history contains some excerpts of Rose's writing.

HISTORY OF FRED OLLENBERG FAMILY

By son William Ollenberg

I, William Ollenberg bought my present home, a farm, in Sept. 1935 from Mr. Frank Pallanch who was then living in California. I bought it through Charlie Carrol, an auctioneer and land agent in Leduc. The location is SW 35-48-2 W5 and I am ½ mile south of Sunnybrook town limits. My uncle Adolf Ollenberg had the farm north of my place NW 35-48-2 W5 where the County of Leduc now has its machinery yards, machine repair shop and office.

I broke my first land in 1938 with horse power. Tractor power was scarce and so was money to pay for breaking. My parents Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ollenberg lived 3 miles north of Millet at that time but on account of mother's serious illness Dad quit farming there and moved to Sunnybrook in Oct. 1942 to live and farm with me until their passing. Mother died May 24, 1949 and Father passed away August 24, 1964.

Andrew Poholka had the first store in Sunnybrook and, later W.F. Borgstede owned a store and Mike Tomaszewski worked in it for years. The municipal office was located where the present community hall stands. Mr. W.A. Bradbury was secretary-treasurer then and later the office was moved to Thorsby.

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Hoffman also had a store in Sunnybrook for years. They sold to John P. Benham and he later sold it to John Zaharko. The late Ed Brosman had a blacksmith shop in town for years. He had a farm ½ mile south of Sunnybrook, the SE 24-48-2-W5 and was our neighbor across the road for over 30 years. After he sold his blacksmith shop he retired to the farm to spend his last days on the land he loved. He lived to be over 90 years. We were all in the farming occupation to make a living and to have a secure home that we could call our own. We have all had our share of good and bad years since settling here; forest fires, floods, hail, poor crops or none at all. But we took it as it came along and today we have a district to be proud of. I hope to keep on living here and retire in this community and enjoy country life.

THE PETE AND MARY PANKEWITS STORY

as told by daughter Elaine Kuzio to Shirley Radowits

Pete (son of Steve and Jennie Pankewits) married Mary Oneski in 1939, and settled on NE 14-48-2-W5 where they mixed-farmed. Pete and Mary were blessed with 5 children (Elaine 1940, Leona 1941, George 1945, Shirley 1946, and Karen 1953). The children all attended Capbillion School the first few years and later were bussed to Warburg School. Elaine and Leona both graduated from Warburg in 1960 and moved to Edmonton where they both worked for the Provincial Government (in different departments).

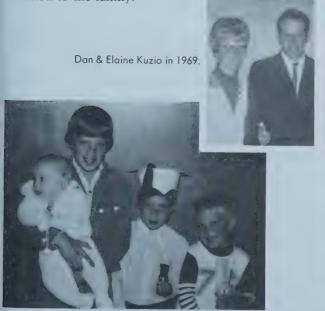


1962 - L. to R. Pete Pankewits family. Leona (Paskowski), Shirley (Whitfield), Pete Pankewits, Mary Pankewits, George Pankewits, Elaine (Kuzio), in front is Karen (Kuzio).

George commutes to his oil field job. Shirley also worked in Edmonton at various jobs. Karen graduated from Warburg High School in 1970.

In 1963 Elaine married Danny Kuzio (son of Mike E. and Katie Kuzio). At this time Elaine and Danny were both employed in Edmonton (Elaine at the Treasury Dep't, and Danny for a building contractor). In 1964, Danny got a job at N.A.I.T. as a maintenance worker. Elaine continued her job with the Gov't.

In 1965 Danny and Elaine purchased a quarter of land (SE 22-48-2-W5) from Louie Just. On Oct. 13th, of the same year, they were happy to have their first son Darren. In 1969 Danny and Elaine purchased a house in Edmonton and had it moved onto their farm. Previous to this they bought their machinery and equipment to set up mixed farming. In Jan. 1971 Elaine quit her job to stay home with the family. On March 6th, 1971, a second son Dean was born. The family remained in Edmonton until June of 1971, when they moved to their farm south of Sunnybrook. Danny commuted daily to his work at N.A.I.T. On Sept. 15th, 1972 a third son Colin was a happy addition to the family.



1976 - Blair, held by Darren, Dean, and Colin. Children of Danny and Elaine (Pankewits) Kuzio.

Due to the long hours he had to put in during the day Danny quit his job at N.A.I.T. and decided to work at the Thorsby Macleods Store, closer to home. After awhile he quit working and devoted his time to his farm and family.

On Dec. 28th, 1976 a fourth son Blair completed the family. The 3 older boys all attend Warburg School. Although the 4 boys do not enjoy all the work that farm life involves, they really appreciate the outdoors and the freedom that is only found in farm life.

Leona Pankewits married Frank Paskowski in Nov. 1965. They farm in the Breton area and have one child, Christine born in 1966. Leona works at the Treasury Branch in Breton.

Shirley Pankewits married Wynn Whitfield in Dec. 1967. They have 3 children, Tana, Peter, and David. The Whitfields reside in Winfield, British Columbia.

After working hard and trying to establish himself and his family, Pete Pankewits passed away suddenly on June 24th, 1968 at the age of 55. His wife Mary remained on the farm with her son George and youngest daughter, Karen.

George married Marscine Dalke in July 1970. They purchased the land his father owned. George and Marscine have a son Peter, and a daughter Renee. Besides farming, George is a tool-push at an oil rig. His mother Mary, now resides in Prince Rupert, British Columbia.

Karen Pankewits married Harvey Kuzio (son of John and Stella Kuzio) on May 1st, 1971. They have a daughter Rhonda and a son Carey, and reside in Edmonton where Harvey is employed with Texaco Oil Co.

Although the miles separate the Pete Pankewits family, they still enjoy getting together and visiting at the farms.



The Pavlin farm home in 1947. Pavlin Family and some friends on veranda.

THE JULIUS SHEETZ STORY

(Julius will be referred to as (Dad) as related by daughter, Hertha Ollenberg

On June 11, 1929, Dad, Mother, Edward (9 mos.) and I (2 yrs.) left Lithuania on the ship, Montrose. We headed for Canada. We arrived in Quebec on July 5, 1929, and started by train for Edmonton. Our few possessions, which we were allowed to take, consisted mainly of clothes, bedding and linen which were mostly handwoven and sewn.

Although Dad's destination with his little family was Edmonton, because of a misunderstanding in languages, we were thrown off the train at Looma, which is only 15 miles from Edmonton. Although Dad could speak 6 languages fluently, he ended up working in a French community and knew no French. He was a blacksmith by trade, and with the use of an interpreter, found that Beaumont was in need of a blacksmith. Part of his work was for Mr. Leo Dansereau on his farm at Beaumont, but the biggest majority of it consisted of sharpening plow shares, making gate hinges and other blacksmith work for the community.

In 1930, he was offered the blacksmith business in Beaumont, but decided farming looked like a challenge and a very bright future. So again he took his small family and headed west. Dad settled in Sunnybrook which is approximately an hour's drive from Beaumont by car now.

His first farm was a half mile north of the present Sunnybrook Hotel on Highway 39 the SE 10-49-2 W5. The first winters, Dad worked long hours, getting up early, and going west of Breton to cut and load tamarack rails on a sleigh. This was done in conjunction with neighbors who would go out doing the same work. The next day he would take them by sleigh to the Calmar district where farmers were better off and could afford to buy their tamarack rails, which were used for fence posts. Much of this buying was in the form of bartering. Dad would bring back pigs, calves, groceries and sometimes even money. Dad's summer, spring and fall activities consisted of grubbing out trees, clearing more and more land each year and starting to crop it. His longtime dream of being a full-fledged farmer was now becoming a reality.

Between 1930 and 1935, he had to start cutting more tamarack and seeding more grain as our family had now doubled in size. I now had two more brothers, namely: Arnold and Alfred.

As a young child, I remember when Dad and some other settlers built the road north of Sunnybrook. The corduroy was laid in along the centre of the road. They worked in this muskeg and swamp, sometimes in water and soft mud, sinking to their knees. The spring was very wet and it was almost impossible or unsafe to travel. I remember being told that if I or any of my brothers fell off the corduroy in the swamp south of our farm, we would certainly drown. The following

year, things came to a brighter outlook and started improving. The community was given four horse scrapers and blasting or "stumping powder" for blasting out trees, in order to upgrade our roads. At this time we had only a wagon and horses for transportation, so you can imagine how rough it was driving over the corduroy on a wagon.

Our log cabin was now very comfortable as Dad had just put in a new plank floor which was easy for Mother and me to keep clean. Dad had made us our own beds, some benches, a table, clothes closets and cupboards. Our purchased furniture consisted of a Winnipeg couch and a beautiful cookstove which could be polished up to look beautiful. The cracks in the logs had now been filled with mud and whitewashed.



The Julius Sheetz Family in 1935.

In May, 1936, tragedy struck our family with the passing away of my mother. As Dad was left with four small children, the only thing that kept him going was kind, loving and helpful neighbors. I was nine years old at the time, and as hard as Dad tried to keep us all together, Alfred who was a baby, had to be taken care of by Mrs. Lemke, who was very good to him and it worked out well. There were many ladies in the neighborhood with hearts of gold, who also helped us very much. Another one I remember quite well is Mrs. Steven Schultz. Although things at the time for Dad and me and the family seemed hopeless, we can look back and see that in a lot of ways God at this time was with us. In the fall of 1936, Dad married Esther Ollenberg who loved us and treated us as her very own.

There are many, many experiences too numerous to relate in this family history. One that stands out in my mind is when Edward and I got lost going for cows. It was very windy so we couldn't hear the cow bells. Realizing we were lost, we walked and walked for



The Julius Scheetz Family - 1972. Norman, Roland, Wilfred, Alfred, Ewald, Alvin. Standing in front: Arnold, Hertha, Edward. Sitting: Julius and Esther Scheetz.

hours in a half-section of bush. When we had both decided this was the end, we heard a faint call, started screaming as loud as we could, and again Dad came through and found us. Actually we found out later that our parents were much more worried than we were. Another time that scared us all was a severe hail storm. which killed chickens and completely destroyed our garden. Then another time there was a fire which burned our brand new barn, a hay stack, a sow and little pigs.

In 1937, we moved to Michigan Center, where two more babies were born, Ewald and Alvin. Now I

had five brothers. In 1941, Dad moved us all to a farm in the Telfordville district, the SE 30-49-1 W5, which had been owned by Angus McDougall. Things were going quite well and Dad started getting into more and better breeds of cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, ducks, geese, turkeys and we even had goats. Dad's dream was now fulfilled as a qualified mixed farmer. With the help of the entire family, we sold cream, eggs, cattle, hogs and some wheat. Prices were starting to pick up and things were going very well.

Dad's pride and joy was always fine horses. In 1942, he purchased a Belgian stallion from Albert Kirchner for \$1000.00 which he used for upgrading his horses and travelling stud service. Sam Ollenberg, whom I married later in 1949, travelled this horse (Fritz) and stayed in many homes from Pigeon Lake to the Saskatchewan River and from Warburg to Calmar.

In 1944 another baby arrived, Norman, another brother. I told Dad to buy me a good clipper set, because I was going to become a barber. In 1945, Dad purchased a 1928 Graham Page car. Some of the boys and I remember our first car ride and my first driving lesson. The good thing about that car was that when I ran it off the road into the poplars at five miles an hour, the bumper was built in such a fashion that the car sprang right back onto the road. In the year 1945, a big change took place in our lives when Dad purchased a WD-6 International tractor and tiller for \$2,100.00.

I enjoyed every minute of working with my brothers in the field in spring and fall. Mom had quite a

bunch to cook, bake, wash and mend for, besides having a huge garden. We had a root cellar which was ideal for vegetable storage. The potatoes kept hard and firm for two years where now you're lucky if they keep six months by putting them in your basement. At this time there was no such thing as going to the hatcheries and buying baby chicks, turkeys, ducks or geese, Mom hatched them by setting "clucks" on the

At this time we were milking over twenty cows by hand. In the fall we were cutting grain and threshing with our own threshing machine which sometimes took two months. So Dad purchased a gas-powered milk machine. Now when threshing time came around, I did the milking by myself.

1946 was the year our entire family had an experience we will never forget. Dad had been communicating by mail with his sister, Henrietta, in Detroit, Michigan, from the time he left the old country and came to Canada. The first time she came to visit us, Dad was on his way to meet her at the railway station when he was met by a big truck in a head-on collision. Fortunately, no one was seriously

In 1949 and 1952, two more brothers came along, Roland and Wilfred. I now had eight brothers. I was still the barber and was wondering if I should have gotten the barber from Thorsby to go into partnership with me.

A great change took place in 1954, when we were hooked up to Calgary Power. This brought much easier milking, our own electric welder, deep freeze and many other conveniences that we know and have today. In 1959, the threshing machine was replaced by the combine, and a complete new outlook on harvesting took place.

Our recreation, besides school ball games and summer picnics, was mostly our own inventions. The boys would sometimes have small rodeos in our greenfeed stack corral or our horse corral. We also invented such things as bicycle tag, which was hard on our old bicycles. To the north of us, in the Strawberry Creek, were beautiful swimming holes which proved quite interesting at times if someone went skinny dipping. We got in some fishing at Pigeon Lake or small lakes across the river near Stony Plain. Many adventurous games were also planned and carried out in our big barn on the farm. Some of the most daring ones would take place when Mom and Dad went to Edmonton. In the fifties, Dad and the boys did some commercial winter net fishing in Pigeon, Buck and Wabamun Lakes.

Time rolls on as an ever rolling stream. The boys all grew up. Some were married and living on their own farms. They always helped one another when help was needed. When one was building a new home, Dad and the boys built it together. Then all the landscaping done and trees planted.

October 11, 1961 was our parent's 25th Wedding Anniversary. The children made them a surprise



"All Aboard for Pigeon Lake picnic" - 1947.

celebration. It was at their home which could accommodate quite a number with relatives, friends and neighbors. There was a small program, a scrumptious meal and of course alcoholic beverages. Our parents never did forget this surprise and neither did we.

Although our family had misfortunes and trials like any other family in our area, we can think of blessings that far outnumber the misfortunes. Until Dad's retirement in 1970, he was the head of the family and was always giving advice and leadership to us who were living on our own or to the boys who were still on the farm with him. Dad enjoyed his retirement in Leduc, making friends and helping new neighbors as he did throughout his life. He spent many of his retired years out on the farm doing what he always liked to do. He even liked driving the new air-conditioned tractor. Dad passed away in 1975 from a sudden heart attack. It was a shock to all of us, but when we look back now, it was another blessing from above which Dad and Mom taught us all to believe in and understand.

Mom is still residing in Leduc and is active in church activities, visiting hospitals and nursing homes, keeping her home and a beautiful flower garden. She is fortunate to have all her children close by, and also her 28 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. The family has so many fond memories to recall.

HISTORY OF THE WILLIAM SCOBIES

by William (Bud) Scobie)

In 1924 my dad and his brother Allen with two friends, Adam Scott and Alf Pearson, came to this area looking for land. The following spring they moved out to it. They had come to Leduc by train and from there headed west with wagons loaded and cows and horses herded behind. When the first year was over many of these animals had died.

Dad was a bricklayer and carpenter and did all his own building and some for neighbors. In the early 1930's he built a machine shed for the municipality on the farm of Angus McDougall, now owned by Roland Scheetz. Years later it was sold and moved away.

There were 3 great events we looked forward to each year. The Red Cross picnic at Sunnybrook Hall grounds $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of the town was one. We always went to that as Mother was very involved with Red Cross work.

The Telfordville Fair was a big event, and if such a fair were held nowadays I'm sure it would still be a big event. There was judging of several classes of horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, also vegetables, flowers and baking. There were corrals and small pens for the animals and buildings for other entries. Strong competition existed among farmers as to who could win the most prizes. Rumors had it that whoever managed to have the judge come to dinner at their place had the best chance. This all ended when World War II started.

Christmas was the third big event in our lives. The early days weren't all bad. People didn't travel but they visited neighbors more. Card games and horseshoes were popular and a lot of softball was played at schools.

When I stopped going to school I stayed home to help Dad with the farming. By this time my sister Nellie had married Owen McDonnell and brother Ed had married Marie Williams. Betty, my other sister, soon married Fred Smith. Mother went to the hospital where she died the following April, 1943. Dad and I batched until 1956 when I married Clara Huseby. He still made his home with us and was able to make three visits home to Scotland in his later years. He died in April 1969.

Mother had been active in Ladies' Aid work and a Girls' Club. Her work with the Red Cross was interesting. She got boxes of good used-clothing and blankets, and even toys for the kids. It was her job to distribute this wherever it was needed. Some of the people couldn't speak English and she had a hard time making them understand she wasn't selling the stuff. I sure would have liked to have had some of the toys that she gave out but she told me I had enough. Those toys were for kids who didn't have any. I have very pleasant memories of Mother knitting. She used steel needles and they clicked so merrily during long winter evenings. I didn't realize then how lucky we were. She knit beautiful socks, mitts and sweaters for us.

Ed worked around the neighborhood at whatever job was available. He did a lot of wood-sawing in the winter. After he was married they lived in Vulcan until he joined the army. He spent about 4 years overseas with the army. Since the war he has lived in the Calgary area. His occupation has been running heavy equipment in construction. Presently he operates a crane in an oil plant construction job at Empress (1978).

His daughter Tracy (Laverne) Whitlock and her husband live at Black Diamond where she sells real estate and drives a school bus, besides being a mother and homemaker. Ian lives in Edmonton and has driven trucks on long-haul jobs for years.

Nellie has always lived in the area. After she

became a widow she moved to Warburg.

I still live on the farm where I was born. Clara and I have 3 sons and 3 daughters. Martha, the oldest, married Richard Cender in 1973. They live in Lindale where Richard teaches. Elaine lives in Edmonton and is attending university. Raymond still lives at home and works as a carpenter and farms. Darlene is living in Edmonton and studying tailoring at N.A.I.T. Donald and Albert are in high school in Warburg.

WILLIAM AND JESSIE SCOBIE

by Betty Scobie Smith

William was born at Methven, Scotland, on Sept. 15, 1881. He grew up and got his schooling there. He became a stone mason and brick layer by trade. He also did carpenter work. He made a trip around the world working as he went from place to place. In 1910 or 1911, he came to Abernethy, Saskatchewan, where he worked for a farmer. This gave him the urge to go farming on his own so he moved to Empress, Alberta, and took up a homestead. Here he met and married Jessie Clark who came from Invernesshire, Scotland. They had 1 boy (Ed) and 2 girls (Nel and Betty). They had to haul their firewood from the river banks which were a good 10 miles away. The wood was willow so it took a lot to last all winter. The government was paying a bounty on gopher tails and there were lots of them. This meant a boost to the grocery money.

The summers were so dry there weren't any crops or feed for the stock. As the situation became worse, these destitute homesteaders decided to move. The government was giving free passage for farmers and their machinery, stock, etc. There was an allotted

number of box cars per farmer.

In 1925, Bill and Allen Scobie, Alf Pearson and Adam Scott came north and filed on quarters. Some were C.P.R. and some Hudson Bay land. They all returned to Empress. Bill tore down their house and moved the lumber along with 6 horses, 4 or 5 cows, and some machinery, and came to Leduc by train. Bill, Allen, Adam Scott and Alf Pearson came on the train with the stock. They loaded everything on wagons and headed for the farm. The roads were almost impassable so they had to hitch 4 horses onto 1 wagon to pull it through the mud holes.

There was an old Indian camping ground on the south corner of Bill's quarter (NW 13-49-2-W5). Here is where they camped for the next 2 or 3 weeks. The men didn't have tents but Bill had 2 big black-haired hides which they used to shelter them from the rain and keep their blankets dry. The two women (Jessie and Jean) and the children came 2 weeks after the men. They slept in Mrs. McDonnell's house. How we appreciated her home until ours was finally finished! She was "Granny" to Bill's children after that. Allen and his family stayed with Bill until Oct. when his log house was finished. In 1926, a baby

boy (William Fraser) was born at home. Granny McDonnell was called on to help. Dr. Howarth was also there.

Bill did carpenter work for other people. He built a municipal shed, and also built a number of chimneys.

He had to clear land by hand to get some fields for grain. There was good wild hay on the place so he had good feed for his cattle. Some of the hay he cut with a scythe. They got their mail and groceries at Telfordville which was 3 miles to the north. The cream was taken to Telfordville and put on the truck for Calmar or Edmonton.

The children went to school at Falconer school. Later it was changed to Sunnybrook. They had to walk 4 miles over bush roads which were nearly impassable part of the time. When the railroad came through the children walked along it to go to school.

Logs were sawed for firewood. They were sawed into blocks by hand. Later they had buzz saws. Oh, the nice big piles of split wood that were always on the farm!

Coal was dug out of the Strawberry Creek banks by hand and hauled home. The kids would listen for the sleigh bells and knew Dad and Ed were coming home with the coal.

Jessie passed away in 1943, after a lengthy fight with cancer.

Bill made several trips back to Scotland to visit his sisters and brother. He turned his farm over to his youngest son (Bud) William Jr. but continued to live with them until 1969 when he passed away at home.

Alf Pearson came from Empress, Alberta, in the spring of 1926. He stayed with Bill Scobie until he got a shack built on his quarter which was next to Bill's (to the east). He spent several winters at the Scobie's when he wasn't working. Then in later years he moved a shack onto Scobie's place where he lived until he had to go into a nursing home where he passed away. Alf came to Canada as a boy of 13 yrs. to work on a farm. It wasn't an easy life for such a young person. Bill and Allen Scobie were his first friends which continued all through life.

Adam Scott came from Scotland. He met Bill Scobie and they became very close friends for the rest of their lives. In 1925, Adam bought a quarter north of the present town of Warburg. Whenever he got sick or had problems he would send for Bill Scobie to come and get him. One time when he was sick, he got up in the night and fell over a hot stove and got badly burned. Bill was called on to take care of him and he gave him good care. Adam was like a grandfather to the Scobie children. He sold his farm and lived in the Bill Scobie home where he passed away.

THE EDWARD SCHMIDT FAMILY

by Edward Schmidt

I was born in Eureka, South Dakota, U.S.A. in



The Edward Schmidt Family Edward (Father), Violet, Rubin, Mina, & Mother Isabel & Ernie - 1936.

1893 and came to Shuler, Alberta with my parents in 1912. It was a prairie town east of Medicine Hat. While at Shuler, I married Christina and 3 of our children were born on the farm. Two were born in the town of Shuler.

In 1930 Christina and I, with our 5 children left Shuler and moved north. Our first stop was Wetaskiwin. One day, when I went to Leduc, I heard of some people I knew from Schuler who were out west of there, near Sunnybrook. I had a 1928 Chev car and I drove out and found them all around Dniester -Steve Sulz, Fred Massner, John Fink and the Bierbachs. It was heavy bush country with wild animals, but very inviting. The people in the area were very friendly and that's when I decided to buy a lot in Sunnybrook, across the road, east of Andrew Pacholka's store. There was a Pioneer Elevator and ½ mile west, the Falconer School. There were 2 squatters on the Town Line by Berry's farm, Edstrom's store and Ed Brosman's old blacksmith shop. Later I helped put Edstrom's store on skids and with 2 tractors it was pulled into town just west of Pacholka's store. One tractor belonged to Mike Radowits who lived 2 miles east of Dniester and I can't remember who owned the other. Brosman built a new log blacksmith shop just west of Edstrom's store. Adolph Ollenberg had a farm on the Town Line near town. John Hier lived east of them and my good friend Valentine Feldman lived 4 miles west.

I built a shack and a barn with the help of the Bierbach and Massner boys. In December of 1930 brought my family, 6 cows and a small tractor to



Model A. Ford Truck of 1928 vintage. L. to R. Edward Schmidt, Rubin Schmidt.

Sunnybrook. I traded 1 cow for a team of horses from Julius Hoffman, and 1 cow for a grain chopper from Mike Pawlick who lived east of Thorsby. I bought a young brood sow from Steve Sulz for \$8.00 and she had 8 young ones. Our chickens were raised from setting hens and eggs given to us by our friends. I bought a 1926 Model T truck and I was then in business - chopping grain for the farmers and hauling cattle and lumber. I bought 108 acres of C.P.R. land for \$1.00 an acre down payment. On a bush contract I took off about 110,000 feet of lumber and cleared a few acres. The Sunnybrook Hotel is sitting on the east corner of that land at the present time.

Times were hard and I worked long hours to get a little cash. It was the gatherings at picnics and at dances and the talking to the people that kept you going on. People started to come. Zeiners moved in from the farm, also the John Tarneys, Mrs. Ed. Arp, and

Rubecks to the north of town.

My wife and children liked going out and picking berries. One time they went out with the wagon and horses north of Feldman's corner to pick berries. On the way home they were caught in a very heavy hail storm. The hail stones were so big they could hardly hold the horses and at the same time try to keep the hail stones from hitting their heads and their hands before they got back to Sunnybrook.

Pacholka sold his store to Bill Borgstede, who opened up a new store which was built by Harry Meincke. Harry Meincke was a carpenter and did a lot of building around the country which the old timers will remember. He also built the Sunnybrook Post Office, while Mr. Munden was the postmaster.

In 1932 I sold my land and property to Rudolf Mandel, who in turn sold to W.A. Bradbury shortly after. I then bought 2 lots in Warburg just west of Wyatt Maynard's restaurant and store. There were very few buildings in town at that time. Koppang's store was being built by Harry Meincke. Halversons had the post office. Mac and Queenie Newson and Ackeys lived upstairs in an old store that was empty. There was a new National elevator, which was run by Charles Menue. They lived in a log house 1/2 mile north of town. Gus Penise, the section foreman had a house and Joe Kurley the section man, also had a house. There was Emery Toad's blacksmith shop and the Bertons were in the process of building a house. I put up a building which was intended to be a Massey Harris shop and was to include living quarters. It wasn't big enough, so I built another on the east side of it which also served as a barn. John Bierbach and Joe Pastor helped me build it.

In the late fall of 1932 we moved into Warburg with everything, stock and all from Sunnybrook. Our stock consisted of 2 cows, a few pigs and chickens. There were many people who bought milk from us. I purchased a different truck, this time a 1928 Chev. Later I bought a 1929 Model A Ford truck from Sylvester Selzner. I hauled lumber and still did some grain chopping. I built a double deck on the truck

which I had to have as I also got the cream route. I would haul cattle on the bottom and the cream on the top deck. Most of my runs were to Glen Park (east of Thorsby) with the cream and then to Edmonton with the cattle. I did that twice a week for about 4 or 5 years. I was also an agent for the Massey Harris Company. I rented a building east of Koppang's Store from Sylvester Selzner and ran a Pool Hall and butcher shop, which had been operated by Jack Haas before he moved away. Marjorie and Beresford Munden took over Koppang's Store. (The Koppangs were Marjorie's parents.) Marjorie managed the store while Beresford was teaching at Falconer School in Sunnybrook. The old Sunnybrook School was 1 mile north and 1 mile east of Feldman's corner but was moved close to town in 1933, where it may still stand. I was a trustee for the school a few years, 1933 - 1939. Some of the other trustees were Fred Hepburn and Winfield Scott. The secretary was Ira Benham for a while and then Edith Halverson was the secretary. I might mention, that when we first came to Sunnybrook, we were told that if we wanted to travel anywhere west it was either to Munden's Corner, Coyn's Hill, Meincke's Corner, Warburg Corner, Koppang's Corner, Halverson's Corner or Barkley Corner and so on. It sure did help everyone. The Lutheran Church was opened in the fall of 1934. Rev. Goos was the minister and Pastor Kleiner was the guest speaker. I was also one of the trustees of the church and also trustee for the Warburg Hall.

In 1940 I sold my property to Alex Textor - traded my 2 cows off for lumber and then moved to Leduc. I was the Massey Harris agent there until I sold out in 1948. My wife and I bought a house in Devon in 1960 when I retired.

Phyllis Zendron, Edward Schmidt, Christina Schmidt, Mina Meincke, Sandra Zendron, Russel Zendron, Jocelyn Zendron - 1966.

Our 5 children are all married. Mina married Donald Meincke from Sunnybrook and they live in Edmonton; Reuben married Dianne Stevenson from Warburg, and they live in Leduc; Violet married Russel Klesko from Edmonton and they live in Edmonton; Ernest married Joyce Anderson from Riley and they live in Edmonton and Isobel married Nick Morrie from Leduc and they live in Westbank, British Columbia.

My wife Christina passed away in 1973 after a lengthy illness. I sold my house in 1977 and now reside in the Planeview Manor in Leduc. I have had 2 eye operations to restore my sight and have had 1 pacemaker installed. I hope to have a few more years ahead as I'll be 85 in September of 1978.

THE HISTORY OF STEFAN SCHULZ FAMILY

by Mrs. Frieda Fritz (daughter)

My father, Stefan, came to Canada from Markt Hodis, Burgenland, Austria in March, 1927, at the age of 26. He landed in Halifax and then came west to Leduc. There he was met by Charlie Carroll, who took Dad and a few other men out to the Sunnybrook area to look for a C.P.R. homestead. The farm that he got is one mile west and 1½ miles north of Sunnybrook. It was all bush with only a bush trail existing for a road. Dad worked for farmers around Leduc for three years after he arrived.



Firewood cutting crew winter of 1939. L. to R. Unidentified, Carl Keevel, Stefan Schulz on rad. of tractor, (Father of Mrs. Fritz), Joe Gruninger, Bill Gruninger, at steering wheel of tractor, Frank Deutsch, Herman Bredehorn.

In 1930, my mother Anna, my sister Anna, and myself came to Canada. My father met us in Leduc and our neighbor, Mr. Reinhold Krause, brought us west. We lived in a one-room shack, one mile west of our present farm, for two years until we built our first home. Our first house was constructed of logs and Dad had to make the jack pine shingles for the roof. We had to borrow the money to buy windows. A friend of Dad's gave us furniture and dishes for the house.

In the winter, Dad and Julius Scheetz went out to the Breton area with their horses and wagons to cut tamarack rails and posts. These had to be taken to



John Fritz and his 5 horse breaking outfit, early 30's.

Leduc where they were traded for feed grain and cash. During the following summer, my uncles, Steve and Alois Haromy, helped Dad clear some land. It then had to be broken by horses. After a year of such hard labor, we had yet to suffer some more, when our first crop, in 1931, was hailed out. Once again Dad had to haul tamarack rails during the winter to support us.

We slowly added buildings to our farm. Dad had to cut logs in the winter which we used for our barn and granaries. After the buildings were constructed we bought some animals. We milked 8 cows which supplied milk products for both our own use and for sale. I remember my mother making butter from the cream, some of which we used, and some of which was sold and used for grocery money. The buttermilk was given to the pigs and chickens — very little was wasted at that time. Livestock was-both for personal use and for selling. Those that were sold were shipped to Edmonton. The truckers also provided a way for my father to get into Edmonton.

In the summer we picked blueberries, some of which we sold. Strawberries, rhubarb and saskatoons were gathered and then preserved. Chokecherries were picked exclusively for making wine. This wine was then used to celebrate the harvest. When the grain was ripe, my father would cut it, bundle it, and bring it into the yard to stack. We then waited until the thresher would come to our place to do our grain. When it arrived, the neighbors would come to help. These people would then go from farm to farm, helping each other get their grain harvested.

By the beginning of the forties, prices started to improve and large land clearing machines came in. Things started to get better. More land was made available for farming and power machinery began to take over. Thus came the end of the time we had to depend on horses. We bought our first steel-wheeled tractor in the late forties. Farming became considerably easier.

In 1951, I married John Fritz, who was farming in the Warburg district. We lived as a family with my father and mother on our farm in Sunnybrook. We had 4 daughters. Judy, the oldest, is now a registered nurse. She married Jack Hilker and is presently living in Breton. Bernadette is a secretary for the provincial government, living in Edmonton. Our third daughter, Christine, is teaching in Leduc, and Marianne, the youngest, lives in Edmonton and works in an office.

Anna, my sister, married Glen Sproat, a Saskatchewan farmer in 1954. Anna and Glenn moved to Kipling, Saskatchewan and began farming there. They have one son, Loren, who is an R.C.M.P. officer in Saskatchewan. They have 2 daughters, Janet who is a C.N.A. in LaRonge, Saskatchewan and Joan, the youngest, works in Regina. Anna and Glenn have recently moved off the farm and Glenn is presently employed by the Saskatchewan Government in their safe driving program.

In 1957, my father, Stefan, died at the age of 56. John and I took over the farming operation at that time. We added 3 other quarters of land to our farm and are now mixed farmers.

Many things have changed from the first time I came to this district. Our life in the early thirties — the struggles, the hardships, the long hours, are now, just memories.

DONALD AND CAROLYN SCHLOSSER

by Carolyn Schlosser

Don was born in 1942 in Kindersly, Sask., was raised on a farm till he was 14 years of age, and then his parents moved to Marengo, Sask., where he finished his schooling. His first job was working on the railroad, where he continued to work for the next four years. In 1964 he took a job as an assistant grain-buyer at Unity, Sask. From there he was eventually employed by Searle Grain Co. in Wymark as elevator manager. When Searle Grain Co. merged with Federal Grain Co. he went to work for Pioneer Grain Co. in Laporte, Sask., as manager for two weeks before being transferred to Sunnybrook, Alta. to take over as manager of the Pioneer elevator. When Don took over, this elevator used a one-lunger gas engine, and the only phone was in the elevator cottage.



L. to R. Carolyn with William on lap. Joey, Don, and Lynne - 1975.

In 1967, the first year of Don's operation, he took in around 200,000 bushels of grain. In 1978 it had increased to the 600,000 mark. He also handled fertilizer with about 30 ton sold the first year. In 1978 it reached the 1500 ton mark. With this increase of

business, the elevator had to be updated with a new scale and unloading dock, also 3 bulk fertilizer bins.

Don and I were married in Saskatchewan and our first son Joey was one year old when we arrived in Sunnybrook on Sept. 17, 1967 and is now 12 years old. The last three children were born, while living in Sunnybrook, Namely: son William - 8 years, daughter Lynne - 7 years, daughter Shari - 2 years.

THE ALEX AND MARY SEKORA FAMILY

by their son Mike Sekora

My parents emigrated from the Ukraine in 1909, bringing with them 4 sons; John 12, George 6, Alex 3, and Max 6 months. They settled south of Calmar on Hannases farm for a year. After that they moved to a homestead 1 mile north of Sunnybrook. Then more children came along; Katie, Steve, Nick, Mike and Fred. Life was very hard in those days, so in 1918 they



Alex and Mary Sekora parents of Mike.

bought an 80 acre farm 1 mile east of Calmar. My parents started all over again with hardships as usual and another child, Millie was born to the family.

In 1928 my folks bought a ½ section of land north of Wizard Lake so we kids went to school and helped out on the farm. Then in 1940 our parents moved to Calmar and lived in town until the time of their passing. Father passed away in 1953 and Mother passed away in 1955. Our parents left a lot of memories behind.

One thing I remember that interested me a lot was when Dad told us kids how they shot a big bear while living on the Sunnybrook homestead. Sunnybrook was a wilderness in those days. Apparently this big bear killed the neighbor's cow so the homesteaders built a platform on top of a tree and some sat there for a few nights with rifles to see if the bear would come back to the carcass. But the old bear was pretty smart; he did not come while they waited for him. So my



Mike Sekora and some of the pelts from his hunting and trapping forays.

father told them that he knew how to get him. They asked him how and Dad said, "I'll set up 3 shotguns and tie them there by the dead cow to 3 little spruce trees that are handy".

The neighbors agreed and Dad set up the shot guns all pointing towards the dead cow. Then he tied binder twine to each trigger of the guns and then tied the other end of the twine to the dead animal so that when the bear moved the carcass the guns would go off. Dad told the neighbors to keep their dogs tied up so they would stay away from there.

Just at dusk, while the sun was going down, there was a 'boom' when all the shotguns went off. When the men heard the explosion they all went running to the spot with .22 rifles, pitchforks and clubs. When they got to it, the bear was wounded badly on the neck and they finished him off. Then they decided to skin him and haul him to Leduc and sell the meat to the butcher shop there.

They loaded the bear onto a wagon and went to Leduc but as the roads were bad it took a day and a half to get there. By that time the meat was spoiled and as they drove into Leduc the people on the streets could smell the wagon as it went by.

Somebody reported it to the police and they came and asked the men what they had. When they were told, the policeman told them to haul it to the dump ground and bury it. This they did and all of their hard



Mike and Annie Sekora's 25th anniversary. L. to R. Daniel, Val, mother Annie, father Mike, David, Joan, Dale and granddaughter Robin Sekora.

work was worthless.

One can't blame them for trying to make a dollar but in this case they lost the buck.

Although I am a pretty good hunter myself I have never tried to sell bear meat. I always gave it away whenever anyone wanted it.

FRED STEYER AND JOHN SCHIFFER

by Don Vath

Fred and John were emigrants from Germany who came to the Sunnybrook area in 1927 looking for some land but did not want to pay the price that was being asked at the time, so there was an old log building 4 miles south and 1½ miles east of Sunnybrook which they took over as squatters the first year they were here. In 1928 the Alberta Government had some more homesteads up for grabs; Fred Steyer filed on SE 23-48-2-W5 and John Schiffer filed on SW 13-48-2-W5. They built a shack each, worked out during the spring and summer and returned for the fall and winter. Fred Steyer had an engineer's degree so he went to Fort McMurray to work on the first pilot plant the Alberta Government was putting up for the tar sands. This operation lasted until it blew up in 1938.

Both Fred and John also acted as hunting guides for the European hunters who came to Alberta to hunt. Both of them stayed long enough to get title to their homesteads, then sold out. John died shortly after selling out. Fred went to Edmonton to live, but worked on some pulpmills, sawmills in the North and other large projects as a millwright. The last report is that he is in a nursing home in Edmonton.

JOHN AND GABRIEL STILET

by Marvin Stilet

My dad, John Stilet, came to Canada from Hungary on May 2, 1926. His brother Gabriel came the following year.

From the time of their arrival until 1930 they worked for farmers around the Leduc area. That year Dad bought SW 23-49-2-W5. Gabriel bought the S.E. quarter of the same section.

In 1940 Dad married Barbara Pichler of the Dniester district. My mother was the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pichler who had come to Canada from Hungary in 1932. At the time of their arrival they had 3 daughters — Threasa, Barbara, and Anne. Another daughter, Millie, was born in Canada in 1936.

Grandpa (John) is residing in a nursing home in Wetaskiwin and Grandma passed away in 1976.

Mom and Dad have 4 children. Vivian, the oldest



Mr. and Mrs. John Stilet on 35th Anniversary - 1975. Seated L. to R. Vivian, Mom, Dad. Back: Marvin, Evelyn, Ivan.

who married Alex Sziraki in 1962, lives in Edmonton. They have 2 children.

Ivan is unmarried and lives with our parents.

I, Marvin, married Marion Gruninger in 1967. We live on the quarter just south of my dad. We have 2 children Danny and Stacey.

Evelyn, the youngest, married Julian Prenioslo in 1975. They live near Warburg.

Gabriel passed away in 1965 and is buried in the Thorsby Catholic Cemetery.

Mom and Dad still live on their original quarter of land and are retired.

NORMAN SULZ FAMILY

by Norman Sulz.

Norman, the youngest son of Stephen and Elizabeth Sulz, moved to the Warburg area in 1944 with his parents. After they retired to Warburg he farmed by himself and in 1953 married Mary Quinlan of Elnora.



At farm in Dneister area - 1928. Jake Sulz on stilts and brother Norman in background.

They lived in various towns in Alberta as he worked in the oil patch for many years. Later they returned to the farm with their 2 sons but Norman continued working on the oil rigs. In 1967 they sold the farm and moved 3 miles north of Warburg and Norman operated a sawmill, also trucking pulpwood to Wabamun. In 1975 they moved again, to an acreage east of Warburg and Norman continued trucking the pulpwood until 1977. He then went to work in the Warburg Seed Plant and is there at present.



Norman and Mary Sulz and children.

Their family consists of 4 sons and a daughter, and all attended school in Warburg. Alton married Judy Kroetch of Coronation and they have 2 children Trevor and Jody Lee and make their home in Medicine Hat. Randy married Terry Benson and has 2 daughters Tabatha and Nicki Lee. He is a driller with Precision Drilling Co. and lives near Coronation. Alton is an operator with Haliburton Oil Well Services. Dennis is also employed in the oil fields. Kathy and Edward are still at home attending school. Mary commenced working after the family began to grow up. She worked in the Parts Dept. of Vern Muth Sales in Thorsby for over a year and is now employed at the Cloverleaf Manor in Warburg.

FAMILY HISTORY OF JACOB AND MARGARET SULZ

Jacob and Margaret (Basden) Sulz were married on December 6, 1945 and spent their first winter in Jake's homestead shack on his parents' farm in the Sunnybrook area.

On May 1, 1946 they moved into their own home on a quarter section 29-48-2-W5. This home consisted of the original homestead shack, 10 x 14 with a 14-square foot addition. Jake was a true homesteader, clearing land by hand the first while and building all his own buildings. During the long winters Jake cut down trees, hauled the logs home with the help of one of the horses, had a sawmill in to make the lumber, and even



Jake and Margaret Sulz. 25th Anniversary - Dec. 1970. L. to R. Doug, Jake, Margaret, Peggy & David.

had his own saw mill at one time. In this way the land was cleared and the farm buildings erected. Over the years, with brush cutting machinery available, the land clearing was no longer done by hand except for the small root picking. The rest of the quarter was cleared and more land purchased until the farm became the size it is now. Some of the original buildings, having outlived their usefulness, were demolished and a new house and barn were built, most of the lumber for these having been taken from the same land.

There are three children in the family. Peggy (Lunde) lives on a farm in the Telfordville area with husband David and children Tony, Angela, Aaron and Jordon. David, who married Betty Jo Stevens of Didsbury, with their sons, Jeffrey and Michael, lives in Leduc. He works for Regent Drilling. Douglas, who also lives in Leduc, is married to Geri Quesnel of Warburg and has two sons, Stephen and Darryn, and works in the CNR office in Edmonton. All three children graduated from Warburg High School and Peggy graduated from the University of Alberta Nursing School. David and Douglas were both active in the Cadet Corps throughout their high school years.

There have been many changes over the years. Farming has come from the days of horse-drawn machinery and much handwork to today's highly mechanized jobs. The roads have progressed from the



Stephan and Elizabeth Sulz Family.

Back: John Hier, Doreen Hier holding David Sulz, Ben Sulz, Stephan (Father), Elizabeth (Mother), Lil Hier, Harriet and Slim Sulz, Frieda and Art Fink. Front; Sharon Hier, Peggy Sulz, Alf Sulz, Veona Hier, Norman Sulz - 1947, at farm in Sunnybrook area.

narrow dirt road to well gravelled side roads and hard topped highways. No longer does the farmer have to stumble around the farmyard with a lantern, but has well-lit yards all night long.

Farming has been a way of life for Jake during his whole life, but Margaret was raised in the city of Windsor, Ontario after having come from Hanwell, England at the age of two. It has been a wonderful experience for them both to see their raw quarter of land slowly turn into a viable family farm with the help of their children. They all look back with pride and happiness and of course, thankfulness over the years. Jake and Margaret plan to retire right on the farm. With all the utilities needed at hand, they hope to continue, as long as God allows, to farm and enjoy the land.

MR. & MRS. SEBASTIAN TOMASZEWSKI

written by their son, John

My dad, Sebastian Tomaszewski, was born January 2, 1875, and Mother, the former Mary Senio, was born March 6, 1884.

In 1905 Dad immigrated to Canada from Mickalufka, Galicia in Austria-Hungary. Mother immigrated to Canada, also in 1905, from Mekis, Prussia.

When Dad arrived in Leduc, he stayed with his brother Valentine, who had come to Canada the previous year. He worked on the railway for part of that first year. It was during this time that he met Mary Senio who had been temporarily staying with the Sikoras, neighbors of Valentine Tomaszewski. Mom went to Edmonton and got a job at the Strathcona Hotel where she received \$4.00 per month.

Mom and Dad were married February 6, 1906, in the Greek Catholic Church at Rabbit Hill. Shortly after their marriage, they obtained a quarter section homestead for \$10.00 This homestead was situated 30



E. Ainsley M.L.A. unveiling cairn in honor of early Pioneers at Wizard Lake -1955.

miles west of Leduc (2 miles north of Sunnybrook). Since their homestead was all bush, Mom continued working at the Strathcona Hotel while Dad and his brother built a small, two-storey log house.

When Dad brought Mom to the farm, they had the total sum of \$5.00, part of which was spent on buying a cow. This cow had to have a loud bell around her neck because she was often chased by bears, and without the bell, Dad would not be able to find her in the dense bush.

Life on the homestead was unbearably hard, for they had to clear the land by hand, using an axe and grub hoe. Their source of income was from butter which Mother churned, and from willow posts which Dad made as they cleared the land. These goods were taken in a two-wheeled cart to Leduc, the nearest store, to be traded for groceries. Since there were no roads, just a bush trail, the trip took 3 days. For us children waiting at home for Dad to return with a treat for us, the 3 days seemed like 3 years.

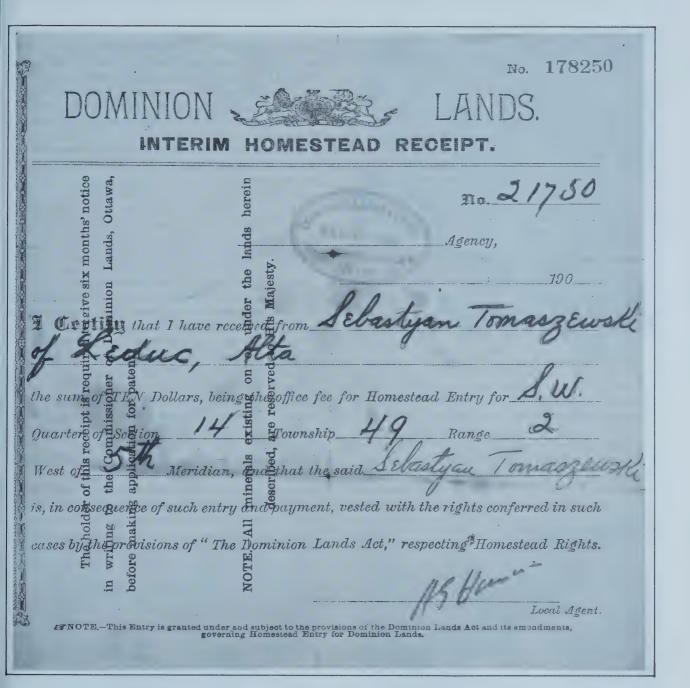
Mother and Dad received their Canadian Citizenship document November 16, 1908. Two years later, they obtained the title to their quarter section.

Even after the first 6 children were born, Mom, Dad, and we children still went to Rabbit Hill Catholic Church once a month, or when the weather was unfavorable, maybe every second month. Mother packed a lunch and we started out in our high-wheeled wagon for the 30 mile trip. We would return late in the evening. This was the only outing we children had in those early years.

Our first post office, in 1910, was in Thorsby, with Mr. Sahlstrom as postmaster. We collected our mail there until the post office and store opened in Telfordville. Then, with the opening of the store and post office in Sunnybrook, we began getting our groceries and mail there.

By 1920, Mom and Dad built their second log house, a considerably larger one. By then the old one was getting too small for a family of 10 children. However, now with a big house, there seemed to be room for more children, so they were blessed with 3 more sons. This made a total of 13 children, 6 girls and 7 boys.

There was no school in the area when my 4 older sisters were of school age, so Katie and Annie, the 2 oldest ones, were unable to receive any formal education. When Katie got married, the third oldest sister Nellie, went to live with them so that she could go to school. Sophie, the fourth sister, went to live with an uncle at Camrose, in order to attend school. In 1924, by the time Joe, Peter and I were well beyond the regular school-starting age, the Dniester School was already in operation. Since we lived 5 miles from the school and the roads were still bush trails, Dad took us 3 boys to school by horse and wagon in the morning. However, he was too busy on the farm to make the trip twice a day, so we walked home after school. We attended Dniester School only 1 year, for



after that the Falconer School at Sunnybrook was already in operation. The younger children, Emily, Francis, Andrew, Michael, Frank, and Stanley began their education at Sunnybrook. Stanley continued through high school and then through University to become a teacher. After his first month of teaching he decided that this was not the job for him.

In 1929, Dad and Mom bought another quarter section of land, again all bush, for the sum of \$1120.00. Their first car, a 1928 Pontiac, was purchased in 1936.

My brothers Andrew, Michael, and Frank served in the army during the Second World War, with Andrew being stationed in Port Alberni, B.C., Michael in Halifax, and Frank overseas, in Holland, Belgium, and Germany.

We are all grown up and some of us have families of our own now. The oldest sister, Katie, married Fred Fedor, a farmer near Calmar, and they have 10 children. Next, in chronological order, is Annie, who married Peter Mendys, a farmer near St. Francis. They are now retired in Thorsby. Sophie remained single and now lives in Edmonton. Nellie married Walter Konwicki, a blacksmith at Calmar, and they have a son and daughter. Joe married Mary Verhun of Thorsby and they farm in Sunnybrook. I married Veronica Jantschewska and we have 3 sons and 3 daughters. We remained living on the home place with my parents. Peter married Nellie Jursheski who, after 2 years of marriage, passed away in 1952. They lived on a farm 2



Seated: Stanley, Derek, Jenny. Back row: Philip, Kevan, Paul. The Stanley Tomaszewski Family.

miles west of our place, where Peter is still residing, Frances didn't marry, and she lives on the farm with Veronica and me. Emily, also unwed, had set up a hairdressing salon in Calmar, which she operated until she passed away on December 31, 1971. Andrew married Mildred Stachnick of Devon, and they have 9 children, 5 girls and 4 boys. They live on a farm just west of us. Michael married Jenny Hunka and they have one son. Michael had a partnership in the



Taken 1927

Back Row: L. to R. Sophie Tomaszewski, Katie (Lekoch) Kobeluck,
Nellie (Tomaszewski) Konwicki; Mrs. Anna Lekoch, Fred Lekoch.
Front: L. to R. Mary Tomaszewski, Katie (Tomaszewski), Fedor holding
son Peter, Fred Fedor, holding daughter Steffie, Sebastion
Tomaszewski.

Farmer's Supply general store with Mr. Borgstedt. Frank later bought Mr. Borgstedt's share of the store and these 2 brothers still operate the store. Frank married Elsie Klatt, a teacher at Sunnybrook, and they have 3 daughters. The youngest brother, Stanley, married Jenny Yurkowski, a teacher at Thorsby, and they have 4 sons. Stanley is the present postmaster in Thorsby.

Both of my parents have passed away — Dad in June, 1946, and Mother in May, 1962. They had 35 grandchildren.

DONALD AND ANNIE VATH

by Donald Vath

I was born at Chester, Montana. It was situated on the bald prairie and my parent's home was about 14 miles from there. I was 9 years of age when my parents immigrated to Canada in 1922.

When we arrived in Leduc we stayed overnight as it was the first snowfall of the season. I recall there was about 6 inches of snow in the morning. It was good in one way as travel could then be by sleigh instead of wagon. When we reached our new house it was dark and the next morning we awoke to a very cold home as no fire had been kept during the night. It was different from Montana.

Dad made a sleigh for us kids to travel to school as it was 4 miles to go and too far to walk. We went to Weed Creek until the end of June and found it was not easy to make friends at the start as most of the children were of Polish and Ukrainian nationality. They did not speak English very well and left us mostly to ourselves. We were accustomed to playing games they didn't know but they soon became interested so the barrier was broken.

That spring Dad and Uncle Ed filed on homesteads in the Sunnybrook area and built a 16 x 20 ft. 1½ storey house on Dad's homestead. Both families moved into it in July 1923. This was our home until we could afford a better one in 1929 when a new one was started. It is the home where we live today

Even though we kids were pretty young we were required to do our share of the work, milking cows, bucking firewood and other endless jobs. In the years I went to school I attended 4 different schools. My schooling was interrupted during the logging season in the winter months so I could help Dad. He would take a contract to do a certain amount of logs per season for the Sam Morrow Lumber Co.

The winter of 1927 the rabbit population reached its peak so we would shoot rabbits and skin them during a break in the log cutting. In the evening we would stretch the hides on boards and eventually sell them for 12¢ apiece.

The rabbits caused many a farmer concern that year, as they would burrow into haystacks by the hundreds and spoil the hay for feed. I used to like

catching the wary prairie chicken as one could not get close enough to shoot them. First I tried a cage with some grain sprinkled on the ground leading into it, but they were smart enough not to go inside, so I had to think up another idea. I took some oat sheaves and made a stook whereupon I put a gopher trap with grains of wheat placed upon the trigger pan. This was very effective, so we ate prairie chicken quite often.

When our Uncle Ed moved up he had brought a pair of pretty good sized mules, weighing about 1400 lbs. each. These were a novelty to most people in the area as they had not seen such animals. I can recall going with Dad to Morrow's Mill to get some lumber, and I guess that most horses had never heard a mule bray before. When we arrived the mules let out with their braying and you should have seen the confusion, with horses and sleighs with partly loaded loads of lumber, going in all directions. I got a great kick out of it, but those fellows who lost their teams and sleighs were ready to kill those mules. From then on the mules never went back to the mill that I can recall.

In 1928 the C.P.R. was building the line from Warburg to Thorsby and needed horses and men to operate the 4 wheel dump wagons, so Dad put 4 horses and me to drive them, on one of the wagons. The job lasted until freeze up. The next year the hamlet of Thorsby started to build up, so Dad and I went to work on our first project, putting up a cafe in the area where the MacRae Agencies now has its building. Next was a livery barn for Jack Arthur. We also helped on the building that C.M. Hale used as a machinery outlet, about where the Bank of Montreal now stands. This was the first taste of carpentry business for me and I have stayed with it for 48 years.



My first car a 1928 Ford Roadster. It was not new by any means as this picture was taken in 1936.

My next challenge was in 1934 when I went south to the Picture Butte area where they were starting to build the Canadian Sugar Factory. It took me a few months to get a job on this project as there were a lot of people looking for work during the dirty '30s. When I got on I stayed for over a year. From then on it was building barns, granaries, hog houses etc. in the area.

It was there I met my wife Annie Tichler. Her father had come to Alberta in 1909 and put up a sod house. It was there my wife was born. Her parents and



Wedding picture of Donald and Annie Vath, Feb. 23, 1938. We were married in my parents

my maternal grandparents were across - the - fence neighbors, a coincidence that it should work out that way. We were married in 1938 and tried farming for 3 years, but it did not work out, and in the spring of 1941 we moved to Lethbridge where I resumed carpentering. We stayed there until the spring of 1952 when we moved to my parent's farm at Sunnybrook. Again trying my hand at farming, I rented an additional quarter from Mr. A. Zeiner Sr. But I was not meant to be a farmer, as we were hailed out 100% 2 years in a row. The third year was so wet that by July I had only a few acres seeded, so I gave up and went back to carpentering in Edmonton. We moved to Namao so that I wouldn't have to travel so far to work.

By 1959 Dad had signed the farm over to us kids, so I bought the other brothers' and sisters' shares out, not to farm it, but to have a place of my own in the country, which is a better place to raise a family. I continued working at the carpentering trade which took me to the Great Canadian Oil Sands plant at Fort McMurray. I was on this job for over 2 years, then on the Hinton Pulp Mill for over a year, also on the Grand Prairie Pulp Mill, Wabamum Power Plant and the Sundance Power Plant. I think I have had my share of work on these large projects. My last job was on the Grande Prairie Pulp Mill where I stayed for about a year and left there in Feb. 1972, with the intention of giving our youngest son a hand with the spring work, as he was the only one left at home by this time.

In the fall of 1972 my wife and I decided to take a long awaited holiday, going through 11 states; between the two of us we had relatives in 9 states. We were gone for 4 months, travelling close to 13,000 miles, but decided good old Alberta was the best.

We have 9 children. Linda married John Hebein. They have 2 daughters Jolynn and Caroline. They live north of Edmonton on an acreage and John owns his own upholstery business.



Douglas Vath - 1977. This is his 7th year on the Edmonton Police Force.

Kenneth married Joyce Krowski and they have 2 daughters, Alanna and Deanna. They also live north of Edmonton on an acreage. He is a tinsmith and has worked for the same employer that he apprenticed with, the J.K. Campbell Co. for the past 17 years.

Charles married Carol Schultz and they have 2 sons, Chad and Sean. He is a boilermaker welder and

they live in Edmonton.

Merle married Linda Hiede and they have a son Richard and 2 boys from a previous marriage, Steven and Robbie. They live in Kamloops, B.C. where he is a bus driver in that city.

Douglas married Violet Trautman and they have a son Darrin and 2 daughters Lisa and Tracy. He has been an Edmonton City Policeman for 7 years and lives in the city.



Family of Don and Ann Vath - 1972. Latest picture of entire family together at one time. L. to R. Charles, Wesley, Don (Father), Kenneth, Ann (Mother), Douglas, Clarence, Loretta, Audrey, Merle and Linda.

Audrey is still single and lives in Edmonton.

Wesley married Evelyn Nemetchuk and they have a son Jason. He is a machinist and lives in Kamloops, B.C.

Loretta married Jim Paul. She has been an office worker for Alberta Government Telephones for the past 4 years. They live on the farm of Walter Pichonsky.

Clarence, our youngest, is single as yet and apprenticing as a machinist and lives in Edmonton.

That leaves Dad and Mom on the farm where we have retired to enjoy the peace and quiet. We like getting those pension cheques after all of those years of paying income tax.

ED VATH STORY

by Walter Vath

When the Edward Vath family immigrated to Canada in 1922, from a dry and grasshopper-ridden farm 14 miles south of Chester, Montana, it consisted of his wife Lena and 4 sons, Walter aged 8, Harold 7, Ralph 5, and Norman 3. A sister Myrtle, born in 1923, completed the family.

Land in the Sunnybrook area had been opened up for homesteading, so Dad and two of his brothers Herb and Gust located a quarter section of raw land each with not much more than a trail through the bush.

Dad and Uncle Herb left their families with relatives in the Lethbridge area in the summer of 1922, while they went north, homestead hunting and to locate a place to live temporarily.

That autumn the two families went by train to Leduc, where we were met by Dad and Uncle Herb. We stayed in a hotel overnight and proceeded about 25 miles west to the Week Creek district to an old log house, which to our sorrow was infested with millions of bed bugs.

We attended Weed Creek School and were taught by Mr. Willans.

The following spring, I can recall a big forest fire that went through the part of the country through which our road to school wound through the woods. That afternoon two worried fathers picked us up from school and took us home on the school road which had been over-run by the fire that day. Logs and trees were still smoking on both sides, quite a frightening sight for us prairie chickens. The road went past our Uncle Gust's place. The fire had taken his barn which had had some hay, 2 sets of harnesses and a big sow, but luckily the fire missed his house. No one was home at the time, as their second daughter was in an Edmonton hospital recovering from double pneumonia which in those days was usually fatal.

In the summer, both families moved to Herb's farm into a new house which had been built that spring. Later in the fall, our family moved to our farm, when our house was completed enough to move into. In the move to our place, the team of mules ran away with a wagon load of furniture which Uncle Herb and I were hauling. Needless to say, some of the furniture got scattered along the trail to the house. My ankle got sprained so badly when we were thrown off, that I couldn't walk for two months. That fall, Harold and I went to the then new Capbillion School 21/2 miles away, through a winding trail cut through the bush, or on horseback when the weather wasn't too cold. Later, when the snow came and the weather got colder, we went by team and cutter. There were 28 pupils, from grades 1 to 10, in which Audrey Cunningham and Allan Ladd were among the pupils. I was in grade 3 at the time. Mrs. Walker was the favorite teacher. I don't think there was a dry eye in school when she left. Mr. Hamilton was not very popular with the kids, in fact George Petrie went so far as to fill his high-top boots with water one noon hour, and got expelled when he refused to take a strapping for it.

To supplement the meagre income from the farm. Dad and his brother Herb, hauled lumber from the sawmills in the district, usually from Morrow's Mill to Kavanaugh, mostly in winter on sleighs, as the roads were too wet and muddy to do any hauling in the summer. However, I recall one summer when I was about 11 years old, my cousin Donald and I each drove a team of horses on wagons loaded with lumber, accompanied by our fathers with larger loads of

lumber, pulled by four-horse teams.

While living on the farm for 5 years Dad managed

to clear about 40 acres to crop.

In December of 1927, Dad had an auction sale to sell everything except some household effects and moved to Iron Springs, near Lethbridge, where he bought a farm from his mother-in-law. He farmed until 1941, at which time he sold out and retired to Lethbridge.

At the time of writing, Dad is 98, living in a nursing home in Lethbridge, my sister Myrtle is living in Taber, my brother Ralph has a half interest in a body shop in Lethbridge, and I have a television store in Red

Deer.

HERBERT AND LYDIA VATH FAMILY

by son Donald Vath

My father, Herbert (Herb) as he was known to most people, was the sixth child of 10, 5 boys and 5 girls. He was born June 11th, 1885 in Lecenter, Minnesota. My mother, Lydia Reck, was born Jan. 22nd, 1886 in Olivia, Minnesota, They were married



Wedding picture of Herbert and Lydia Vath -Sept. 30, 1909,

on Sept. 30, 1909. My father learned the carpenter trade at an early age so worked away from home to help make a living. He also took a short course in veterinary which came in handy in later years. Dad and mother rented a farm in Minnesota for 1 year, where their first son Lester was born on Aug. 9, 1910. That same fall, word got around that there was homestead land to be had in Montana for \$10 a quarter, so 4 brothers and 2 sisters went to Montana along with a number of cousins and some friends to file on a homestead, returning to Minnesota to make preparations for the move in the spring of 1911.

When the migration took place they took the bare necessities, such as a couple of horses, a cow or 2, a plow, harrows and a small assortment of other equipment including household effects. Upon their arrival in Montana their first concern was to put up

some kind of shelter, which was a tent for a short period of time till they put up a more permanent building.

As most of the young people settling in their new environment were of the same faith, religious education was a vital and important issue in their lives. Our parents were always involved in Sunday School and church work and a small building was erected which would serve as a church for a while and then would serve as a school when the children were old enough. Breaking land the first year was of importance so they could put a crop in the following spring, but as it turned out in 11 years of farming they had 1 good crop which was in 1915. I, Donald, was born in 1913. Adeline was born in 1915 and Lewis in 1919.

To help pay some of the bills, my father went to Havre to work on the Great Northern Railway's bridge-building crew during the winter months. In the fall of 1921 the C.P.R. sent land agents into Montana to try and get new immigrants to take up some land in the Thorsby area. Of course they had their usual offers of giving free transportation from Coutts, Alberta to Leduc. Also land was cheap at \$10 an acre, a country where drought was unknown. Why should they fight with dust storms, grasshoppers that ate everything in sight and drought that was persistent every year? That fall Dad and his brother Ed went to southern Alberta where their brother-in-law Julius Reck and parents had immigrated in 1909, with the intention of working in the harvest fields there, but found that they, too, were stricken with drought. They ventured farther north, eventually getting some work in the area of Stettler where the crops were good and stayed until about the end of November. After finishing with the harvest they decided to take a look at some of the land the C.P.R. agents had told them about in the Thorsby area. They eventually picked out a half section each, 5 miles south of Thorsby at \$10 per acre. They then returned to Montana for the winter and made plans for the move to Alberta.

In the spring of 1922 Dad and brother Ed put in their crops as usual in Montana. After the crops were in they loaded the wagons with machinery that 2 flat cars would hold, 6 horses each, plus a couple of cows each. They then made their way across the prairie to Coutts where it would be put on the C.P.R. cars. The families would remain in Montana until fall.

When my father and his brother Ed arrived in Leduc they rented a building with some pasture to keep the animals in until they could get a place near where they had purchased their land. There was an old log building not too far away, so they proceeded to fix it up by putting in new windows and a homemade door. The logs needed plastering to cover the holes that appeared after being vacant for some time. They did not know at the time that when they moved in there would be a million hosts to greet them (bedbugs). This was something new to us coming from the prairies. Next was to put up shelters for the horses and cows, so they went to the nearest sawmill which

was operated by Mr. Fred Mudry at the time, and got some slabs for the barn and cut poles for fences. By the time this was finished it was time to go back to Montana to see if there was a crop to harvest, but as usual there was nothing to boast about. So we harvested what there was, then proceeded to move the household effects and families to Alberta. There were 4 children in each family so that made 8 children and 4 adults in the party. We arrived in Leduc around the first week of November and there was snow on the ground by this time, which made our travelling to our new home a bit smoother as it was by sleigh rather than by wagon over the bush trails that contained sloughs and stumps of the trees that were cut and left to jostle you about. It was a long day for this trip, so it was dark when we arrived at our destination. The log house looked small, about 18 by 24 feet, and this would be home for the 2 families until spring. It was rather crowded, with the kids sleeping in the attic where we could see the stars through some of the cracks. B-r-r, was it cold! It took a couple of days to get settled and then it was time for the 5 school children to be registered at the Weed Creek School some 4 miles away. We were supplied with a horse and a homemade sleigh to travel in. The children encountered another experience in attending this school. It was the language barrier. As most of the other children were of Polish and Ukrainian nationality and could speak little English, we were left mostly to ourselves for the first couple of weeks. But when they saw that we had some new games to play they wanted to be a part of it, so the friendship with some of these pupils has existed to this day.

The first winter was a hard one for us new pioneers as all feed had to be bought for the horses and cows, as well as food for the families. So Dad and his brother were on the road most of the time hauling lumber from the sawmills to Leduc. An incident took place that winter which to us today, is a bit humorous. Dad and his brother Ed had bought a straw pile from a farmer in the area and had paid him the cash, but the farmer failed to tell his wife, so when they hauled the first 2 loads she came to stop them. But not knowing much English, they could not explain to her that they had bought it, so on the second trip they were greeted by the housewife with a shotgun. So they left, only to return with a gun also. There was no showdown and they were allowed to haul their straw.

In the spring of 1923 the Provincial Government opened up some land for homesteading and my dad filed on the N.E. 26-48-2-W5. Ed filed on the N.W. 13-48-2-W5. The 2 brothers proceeded to build a 1½ storey shack on Dad's place which the 2 families moved into in July. The next project was to build a house for Ed on his homestead as well. The task of clearing the bush was begun, It was tedious work with grubhoe and axe and seemed to take forever to clear a small patch. But this was the life of a pioneer. In Jan. of 1924, Esther was born in the old homestead shack with no doctor in attendance and my aunt acting as

midwife, which was quite common in those days.

Dad was gifted with many talents and could do most anything that came to hand. He could do carpentering and helped many a newcomer to build his house. He could do blacksmithing, he sharpened his own plowshares as well as the neighbors, and he could weld 2 pieces of iron together by heating them in a forge and then would put on some kind of flux and hammer them together. He was the area veterinarian for a number of years. He would sometimes be called out during the night to attend a sick horse or a cow. He was also the community barber, and was asked on a number of occasions to pull an aching tooth and he would say, "If you can stand the pain of pulling, I can".

The first crop harvested was from a 10 acre plot, which was cut with a binder, then stooked to dry and eventually stacked to await a threshing machine which could come anytime between Oct. and Jan., depending on road conditions. The threshing machine was small, with a 20 horsepower stationary engine mounted on the same chassis as the separator. The separator was hand fed with no blower for the straw, which in turn was taken to the straw pile by a chain ladder similar to our present day bale elevator. There had to be a person on the stack to keep the elevator clear. A lot of progress has been made since then when one compares our present day combine.

On moving to the homestead, the children went to the Dniester School for 1 term. The teacher at the time was Mrs. Beulah Hale. Again we made new friends, some of them still living in the area. In 1926 we moved from the homestead to the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Arp, where Dad farmed the 3 quarters owned by Mr. A. Arp, Ed and Walter Arp. This meant we children would be going to the Capbillion School. We were on this farm for 2 years, then moved back to the homestead in the spring of 1928 which meant that the children would be going to the Falconer School known later as the Sunnybrook School where they eventually finished their schooling.

In 1943, when my parents thought that things were going to be easier for them, since the children were all out of school, Dad had a stroke leaving him totally paralyzed. The doctor said he would never recover his mobility, but my parents, being of the Pentecostal Faith, believed in Faith healing as recorded in Mark 3:15, "And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils". Their faith in God to perform a miracle was proven to the extent that within a year Dad was doing most of the work on the farm even to cutting logs and hauling them to the sawmill the next winter. But one faculty that he did not regain was his speech. Why not you may ask. Well maybe God had a purpose and we are not to question God's dealing with man in this respect. Mother had not been one to do much of the business up to that time, but now found that she had to be the mouthpiece for Dad, but for only a short period as my parents were involved in a car accident on May 2, 1957 which took my mother's life. After Mother's death, Dad and my

brother Lester went to stay at a retired people's home called The Rest Haven, northeast of Edmonton near Oliver. This was eventually closed and Dad went to the Planeview Manor in Leduc. There he busied himself with many odd jobs and was the gardener of the Manor until the last year of his life, when he took ill and passed away on Jan. 25, 1972 at the age of 87 years.



Herbert and Lydia Vath. Children, L. to R. Lewis, Esther, Donald, Adeline and Lester - 1939.

The children all survive at this time, with Lester in a nursing home in Viking, Alta. He never married, due to ill health most of his life. I married Annie Tichler of Iron Springs and reside on Dad's homestead at Sunnybrook.

Adeline married Peter Dedio of Thorsby. They are now living in Vancouver, B.C. and have 3 children.

Lewis married Anna Meppelink of Nijmegen, Holland, while serving in the forces overseas. They are now living in Delta, B.C. and have 5 children.

Esther married Walter Milley of Edmonton, and

they live in Edmonton and have 6 boys.

Some of the family have departed from their old stamping grounds for various reasons, job opportunities, climate, etc. but I am sure that most of them will not forget the experiences and hard knocks they encountered in Alberta in their earlier years.

THE KENNETH WHALEN STORY

by Nellie Whalen

The move from Toronto, Ont. to Thorsby was not a big one for me (Nellie) since I grew up in the Alsike area and went to school there. For my husband and family, the first few years were very challenging times. There was so much to learn, so much to do as they had visited Alberta only briefly before, during the summer months.

There were two reasons for this sudden immigration west. The first concerned the fragile health of my oldest son Donald who is an asthmatic;

secondly to take care of my mother whose health was also poor.

We purchased the farm of Bill Kelm in 1969 and moved out in early August of that year. Ken knew nothing of farming whatsoever, having never lived in a rural area before, He was born in Nova Scotia, spent 5 years overseas during World War II and lived the last 20 years in Toronto.

It was a happy day for Ken and myself as we boarded the plane for the trip west. However, the children were extremely uncertain about leaving all their friends and changing schools.

We found the people of the area very helpful. The very first neighbors we met were Bill and Mary Pankewicz and family. They introduced themselves to us by bringing a cake down for the family. Such thoughtfulness was touching and uplifting. Many farmers took time out from their own busy schedules to show Ken how to farm. But because of his job at the airport, which entailed shift work, he soon had to leave the farming to someone else.

Initially, I found myself-becoming rather bored since I had worked most of my married life. Not being able to drive, I decided to take care of foster children. I loved them and found them unsurpassingly interesting, and still do to this day. In fact, five of my brothers and sisters are also foster parents.

At first, all the children found the winters to be extremely cold. For Donald (the asthmatic) the cold was particularly bad. He spent a lot of time in the hospital, thus missing a lot of school.

I'll never be able to thank all the fine people for everything they did whenever there was sickness in the family. We could always call on someone when one of the children was ill at school and needed a ride home. They were just great.

After being advised by our doctor that it would be better for Donald if we left the farm, with its pollen and dust, we moved into Edmonton.

Denise is now majoring in Psychology and German at the University of Alberta. Donald returned to school after being out for 18 months, and David is in grade 11. David is also a member of the dance group "The Hitmen", who are often seen on Disco Daze.

Dana, our adopted daughter is in grade 8. The other children are also doing fine.

I opened a small business known as Ebony Beauty and Barber Supplies which was supposed to keep me from becoming bored with city life. It has since grown into a large thriving business serving 20 drugstores and beauty shops as well as retail outlets from Manitoba to British Columbia.

The move to the city also had an advantage for Ken, since he still works at the International Airport. Oh yes! I finally learned to drive the car.

We still visit the farm frequently. I think Dana and I visit it most of all. We'll just have to learn to live with the city for the time being.

WILLIAM (BILL) WILKIE FAMILY

by Wm. (Bill) Wilkie

I, William (Bill) Wilkie was born in Edmonton, on April 15, 1912. My parents, being of German parentage, immigrated from Volenia, Russia in 1901. They settled in the Wiesenthal district, later moving to Edmonton. In the spring of 1921 they moved back to the Wiesenthal district. It was at this time (the end of June) that I went to stay with my uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ollenberg. They lived 3 miles north of Millet. I stayed with them for 3 years and attended Wonce school, which was later renamed Golden Glow. Mr. E.R. Paterson was the teacher.

While there, I hauled the milk to Millet in the summer months with a horse and buggy. During school days I would leave early enough to drive the 3 miles to the cheese factory and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles back in time for school. At that time the cheese factory was on the east side of main street. Later on they built a new one on the western outskirts of town.

After my 3 year stay with the Ollenbergs, my dad took me home. My folks lived 1 year in Wiesenthal and then moved to the farm just south of Kavanagh for a 3 year period (1922 - 1924) and we went to Grenthal school, north of Kavanagh. We hauled the milk to Millet from this place. I remember one year it was very dry and the crop was poor, so Dad bought a strawpile at Ponoka for \$10.00. He would always go together with 2 or 3 neighbors and they would haul the straw home on wagons that winter because there was no snow.

In 1925 we moved to a place, 1 mile west of Grenthal school and from there we hauled the milk to Leduc. In 1926 we moved to the dairy farm north of Millet and again we hauled milk to Millet. We lived there for 3 years. It was in June of 1927, the day we were to start writing exams, that Dad pulled me out of school to plow 100 acres of summerfallow with a two-bottom gang plow.

In the spring of 1929 we moved to Patience. I was home for 1 more year, then I pulled up stakes and went working out. Wages were very low \$15.00 - \$20.00 per month or \$1.00 a day if you could get a few day's work. During the winter, I worked for farmers for \$5.00 a month from 5 A.M. to 10 P.M. doing chores, cleaning barns, hauling feed for 22 horses, 35 head of cattle, 70 hogs, 100 sheep and 200 hens and get out the year's supply of wood, which had to be sawed up, split and piled.

In December of 1934, I bought the N.W. 26-48-2-W5, Hudson Bay land, 160 acres of solid bush. At this time I bought a team of horses and did some heavy hauling, such as hauling lumber from Morrow's Camp to Kavanagh. I also hauled tamarack, spruce rails and slabs to the farmers at Leduc and Millet. One winter I hauled logs for Clyde Cunningham Jr. and a young chap that he had helping him by the name of Jim McKinny, to Zeiner's camp, which was 5 miles south of Warburg. I worked with my team of horses, on what is now called the old highway

between Millet and Leduc, the summer that they built it. In the fall I had my team on at the gravel pit at Millet.

It took a few years before I got some land broken and a few buildings put up. I was interested in sports and served a term on the board of the Sunnybrook Athletic Association, when the hall was at the Strawberry Creek. I hold a lifetime membership card. I helped build the first skating rink in Sunnybrook, which was about 1939-40. We had to haul the water for it. Sunnybrook once was proud of a nice tennis court, which I helped work on. Mr. and Mrs. Bradbury helped to organize the Sunnybrook Tennis Club.

I left the farm for a year in 1941 and went to work for the Burmis Lumber Company at Burmis. My neighbor, Bill Bednar looked after the farm. On February 1st, 1942, I got married to Miss Violet Walkling of Lethbridge. We have 2 girls; Gayle Elaine born September 30, 1944, who lives in Coquitlam, B.C. and has 3 children, Karen Marlene who was born July 5, 1947 and lives in Abbotsford, B.C.

My wife, Violet, being a Registered Nurse, was called upon occasionally in case of sickness. Being raised in the city and coming to the farm was a new experience for her. She enjoyed gardening and raising little chicks and rather enjoyed farm life.

The years 1950 - 1954 were very wet years, the crops were poor and in 1954 we had a bad hailstorm that wiped us out. We had an auction sale that fall and moved to Edmonton. I had been working in the city for a year already as a carpenter's helper. Violet went to nursing again in the University Hospital and worked until her passing on March 31, 1967.

In the fall of 1956, I started working for the Edmonton Public School Board as a caretaker. I stayed with them unil I was pensioned off (on account of a bad knee) on March 27, 1969.

I remarried on May 14, 1968 to Mrs. Sal Stelter. We lived in Edmonton for 1 year and then moved to Devon, where we lived for 2 years. Since then we have lived in Leduc.

THE AL WILSONS

Al and Fran Wilson and their boys Brian and Eric moved to the Sunnybrook area in April of 1977. Al is a pilot with Pacific Western Airlines and is based at the Edmonton International Airport. They are living in the edge of a spruce grove on SE 35-48-2-W5 in a mobile home and hope someday to use the spruce for a log building in which to live.

Both of them came from city homes and after seeing their children playing on sidewalks and postage stamp size lawns decided it was time to move to the country. Sunnybrook was selected because there was some undisturbed bushland in the area. Country living has been everything they hoped for and more.

BORIS WNOROWSKI

as told by Boris

I was born on Jan. 26, 1900 in Wnory Kuzele, Poland and was raised in a family of 5 children. The reason I immigrated to Canada was I heard through an agent in 1927 that they wanted labourers. My first impression of Canada was that if I would have had a ticket I would have gone back to Poland. I landed in Edmonton at the immigration office and found that Mr. Kilik was looking for 12 men to do farm work. When I got to Mr. Kilik, a tailor, I found out there were no jobs which he had promised us. Mr. Kilik told us if we had no money we could stay in his house. The following night we were sleeping in his barn.

As I walked around from farmer to farmer, the first job I got was cutting brush for Ed Jahn, 5 miles west of Leduc. I worked for a dollar a day, but that job only lasted a week. My next job was working for the railroad south of Wetaskiwin at 35¢ an hour, putting in an 8 hour day, \$2.80 had to stretch to pay for room and board and clothes. I worked for only a month and a half until I was laid off. At that time I was living in a

CPR bunkhouse.

In 1932 I quit working for the railroad and bought land from Mr. Bill Armstrong who was an agent selling land insurance. The first quarter of land that I bought, cost \$1000,00 on which I made a \$300.00 payment. I bought a farm of which one quarter was bush, cleaned that up, and later bought another quarter section NW 22-49-2-W5 containing 159 acres or less. I cleared 70 acres with my own hands. Later I bought 2 horses. The first thing I built was a little shack and then a barn. My first machine was a plow, then horses, a cow, pigs, and chickens. As time went on I broke more land, a little at a time each year. I used a scythe to cut hay which grew in sloughs.

The years that I lived on the farm, I never had electricity. I did my own cooking, went shopping for groceries and clothes in Sunnybrook where the post office was also. The dances that I went to, about once a month, were held in Telfordville and St. Francis. We had to walk for miles to get there. Due to the bad roads it was hard to go with horses. In those days nobody cared what anyone wore; either dirty jeans or coveralls, they just went to have a good time. Local boys played at our dances where admission was 25¢. I rented out my land and retired to Thorsby in 1974. The year 1978 was a bad year for me. I was hospitalized for 3 months altogether, and had 2 operations in the Royal Alex. I am now comfortable in my home in Thorsby.

LOUIS FRED WORSHEK

By Rose Worshek Elder.

Louis Fred Worshek was born on April 27, 1901 in Jackson, Minnesota and died on July 16, 1955 in Sunnybrook, Alberta.

In the spring of 1935, Louis and Rose Worshek came, lock, stock and barrel, with their 3 children; Delores born Sept. 3, 1925; Raymond born June 15, 1929 and Robert born Aug. 29 1931, from Tilley, Alberta, where they had spent 3 years irrigation farming after having left a well-established mixed farm and all their relatives in Jackson, Minnesota.

Household effects, machinery and their livestock including cows, horses, pigs, chickens and sheep were shipped by train from Tilley. It was not long before the coyotes confiscated the sheep but life could only improve. The daily train, going west towards Rimbey one day and east the next day towards Edmonton, was the main source of transporting goods and produce as well as grain and livestock. It was later supplemented by bus and truck service.

Here in Sunnybrook, they encountered the trials and tribulations of pioneer life. Their '24 Chev. was soon left idle as money dwindled and time had to be spent with their noses to the grindstone, literally. They were shocked to find stone upon stone after they cleared the trees, burned the roots and broke the land on their first quarter, the S.W. 12-49-2 W5. Their house was a poor substitute for what they had back "home" or even in Tilley, which is 20 miles south of Brooks. Soon their house was enlarged and so was their family with the arrival of Angeline, born on January 16, 1936.

Clearing land was a long, slow process in those days and crops were poor. People continued to arrive in that area but others left. Among those who left were Walter and Mary Chewenka and their 5 children, who went to Picture Butte, Alberta.

Along with their first quarter of land, Louis acquired 2 more adjoining quarters. Naturally many fond memories of helping others and of being helped by surrounding neighbors were accumulated during those intervening years. Temperatures of -40 F. were experienced in winter while summers were pleasantly warm with sufficient rain until those years of drought in the 1940's.

In 1945 Delores married Gotthard Wagner from Duffield, Alberta. They have 9 children and live in the Ponoka area.

Raymond married Nancy Liddell, a nurse from Blackburn, Scotland, in 1957. They have 3 children and own and operate Sunnybrook Motors.

Robert married Phyllis Killaly, from Mulhurst, Alberta, in 1952. Robert is living in the Warburg area.

Angeline married Doctor Sidney Joss in 1962. They are currently in Victoria, B.C.

Rose left the farm after Louis passed away in 1955 and is currently living at 10823-129 St. Edmonton, Alta. She has re-married and is now Mrs. Rose Elder.

JOSEPH AND ANTONIA ZUKOWSKI

by Joseph Zukowski

I was born on June 9, 1899, in the village of Supienie, Poland, which is near the town of Pilipow in the province of Suwalki. Bialystok was our nearest city.

On June 20, 1920, I married Antonia Rakowski, in Supienie, Poland. Antonia was born on June 13, 1899, in the village of Piecki, which is also near Pilipow. Two



Joseph and Antonia Jukowski on their 25th Wedding Aniversary -

weeks after we were married, I was called to the Polish army. During these three years, Antonia lived with my brother, Bolestow, and his family. After being discharged from the army, I joined the Polish government police force, in which I served for three years.

In April, 1927, I left for Canada, leaving my wife and family behind. At that time we had three children, Mike, born on January 25, 1922, Robert, born on March 25, 1924, and Rose, born on June 18, 1926. We landed at St. John's, Newfoundland, and on about April 29th, I came to Edmonton with only a suitcase and about twenty dollars in my pocket.

The city was full of immigrants, so the first ten days all of us stayed in passenger cars at the C.P.R. station. After about ten days of living like this, the C.P.R. agent came and told us to leave because they needed the cars. We went to the C.P.R. office and blocked the street so they couldn't move the trolley cars. Pretty soon the police came and tried to make us leave. The immigration office then gave us three tickets at 25 cents each. Two of these were for meals, breakfast and dinner, and one was for a room in a rooming house. At least, then, we had something to eat and a place to stay.

After that, I went looking for work. My first job was grubbing trees for Mike Stepanko of Leduc for a couple of months. As this was contract work, we worked for sixteen to eighteen hours per day at wages of a dollar a day. I spent the first three and a half years of my life in Canada grubbing trees and clearing land

for farmers in the Millet and Leduc area so that I could make some money to buy a place for me and my family.



Seated: Josepth Sr., Antonia, Helen, Edward. Back Row: John, Joseph Jr., Rose, Henry - taken in 1946.

In 1928, a few weeks before Antonia was to arrive, I rented a house two and a half miles north of Millet (east of the highway) from Mr. Moen. As rent payment for the house, I had to grub twenty acres of land. Antonia came from Poland with our three children in November of 1928. Our son, Joseph, was born on October 6, 1929, when we lived near Millet.

In the fall of 1929, I bought some C.P.R. land in the Sunnybrook area (NW 1-49-2 W5). For this land, I paid \$25.00 down, with the remainder left to be paid. The total price was \$14.00 per acre. This quarter was the first land I owned in Canada and is my present home where I am still farming. In 1930, I cleared and broke about twenty acres on this quarter with three horses and a sixteen-inch walking plow.

In 1931, I rented a quarter of land six miles west and one mile north of Millet from Mr. Wolfe. There was an old granary on this land, about sixteen by twenty feet, and that is where my family and I lived. This land had about 120 acres cleared on it. Life there was not very comfortable for my wife and family, but it was all we could afford. It was extra hard for Antonia because in Poland she had lived in town and did not have to put up with these hardships. Here she was stuck in the bush with three small children. I had no money for seed, so the farmers I had worked for loaned me enough seed to plant my crops. At the same time, I also seeded twenty acres on my quarter at Sunnybrook. All I had at that time were three horses, a six-foot disc and a two bottom twelve-inch walking plow. It took me a couple of months to put my crops in and this became a joke to my neighbors, who said I wouldn't get anything back in return. As it turned out, I had a better crop than any of the neighbors. Mr. Wolfe had promised to fix the shack because it wasn't even good enough for holding grain. He had also promised that I could rent the land for as long as I wanted. Later, he changed his mind and forgot his earlier promise, so I hired Mr. Mudry to build a house on my land in Sunnybrook, and in December, 1931, we moved. I still kept working at clearing land for the next ten years, but this was on my own land. After I had finished clearing my first quarter, I bought another quarter of land (SE 2-49-2 W5). As the years went by, I bought two more quarters of land. Shortly after we moved to Sunnybrook, our son, John, was born on Dec. 6, 1931.

I bought my first tractor, a Rock Island, in about 1935 and a 1928 Model A Chevrolet sedan in about 1936, at an auction sale for about \$200.00. In 1937 or 1938, I bought my first threshing machine, a 28 inch Waterloo. This I used to thresh my crops and I also went custom threshing for my neighbors.

Our son, Henry, was born on August 27, 1934. Of all our family, Helen was the only fortunate one to be born in a hospital. She was born on April 18, 1936, in the Thorsby Hospital. Our son, Edward, was born at

home on October 20, 1938.

At present our family consists of six sons, two daughters, forty-four grandchildren and nineteen

great-grandchildren.

Mike married Stella Yasunski and they operate a dairy farm near Sunnybrook. They have ten children: Dianne, Irene, Dwayne, Joanne, James, Geraldine, Anita, Randy, Shelly and Donna.

Robert married Mary Stepanko and they operate R and M Trucking in Devon. They have six children: Patricia, Brian, Judy, Elizabeth, Robert and Mary

Rose married Anton Cender and they operate the general store in St. Francis. They have eight children: Richard, Leon, Regina, Caroline, Joyce, Edward, David and Barbara.

Joseph Jr. married Constance Milner and they operate a barber shop in Edmonton. They have five children: Winona, Romona, Joseph Jr., Leonard and Robert.

John married Anne Motil and they operate Ideal Oilfield Construction in Brooks. They have three children: David, Patrick and John Jr.

Henry married Gladys Plummer and they operate Woodcrest Holdings in Nelson B.C. They have three children: Cameron, Debra and Michelle.

Helen married Darryl Huybens, who is a pipefitter, and they live in Victoria, B.C. They have four children: Sherry, Barry, Theresa and Nadine.

Edward married Patricia Sych and they operate a mixed farm near Sunnybrook. They have five children: Carney, Dale, Tracy, Bradley and Corinne.

EDWARD AND PATRICIA ZUKOWSKI

by Carney Zukowski

My father, Edward Stanley Zukowski, was born on October 20, 1938, on the farm where my grandparents now live near Sunnybrook. He is the youngest son of Joseph and Antonia Zukowski. He went to school in Sunnybrook and later to Thorsby. He lived with my grandparents and helped Grandpa farm until he was about 19 years old. At that age, he left home and went towork as a driller for a seismic



Joseph and Antonia Zukowski in 1955.



Family of Edward Zukowski, taken in 1971.

drilling company called M.R. Hall Drilling. After about a year or so of working out, he came back to the farm to help Grandpa with the farm work.

Dad met my mom at Auntie Nadine and Uncle Larry Verhun's wedding in October, 1959. Mom and Dad got married on July 21, 1962, in Camrose. My mother, Patricia Ann Sych, was born on Dec. 10, 1942. She is the second daughter of John and Mary Sych of Hay Lakes (now they have retired in Camrose). She lived at home on Grandpa's farm until she finished grade eleven. Then she went to school in Camrose and later to university and became a teacher.

After they were married, they lived on my grandparents' farm near Sunnybrook for six years. My father farmed and Mom taught in the Warburg Elementary School. Since my grandfather had built a new house shortly before Mom and Dad were married, they lived in his old one. The house we lived in was quite small and we all slept in one bedroom and had no running water. We had a wood and coal stove in the kitchen and an oil heater in our living room.

I was born on Dec. 20, 1963. My brother, Dale, was born on March 21, 1965 and my sister, Tracy, was born on Sept. 28, 1966. My mother quit teaching after Tracy was born, to become a full-time mother and housewife, although she has been substitute teaching every year since then.

About a month or so after Tracy was born, Dad went to work on the oil rigs for the winter and Mom,

Dale, Tracy and I, all went to stay with Grandma and Grandpa Sych on a farm near Hay Lakes. In the spring, we moved back home. In 1967, Bradley was born.

In 1968, my father bought a farm from Raymond and Nancy Worshek, which is located one mile east and two miles north of Sunnybrook. That October, we moved to our new farm where we live today. My youngest sister, Corinne, was born on October 8, 1969.

Ever since we moved, Dad has been busy trying to make our farm better and more modern by building new buildings such as hay sheds, a cattle shed and machine shed. This year (1978) he is building a new barn, since our old one burned down in 1970. My dad raises beef cattle, and grain farms. We also have some horses, and when Dad isn't too busy farming, he hauls gravel with our gravel truck.

Dad and Mom are quite active in the community. Dad has been president of the Sunnybrook Athletic Association for the last few years and Mom belongs to the ladies' group. We go to the Roman Catholic Church in our area and we kids go to school in Warburg. My brothers also play baseball with the St. Francis Baseball League.

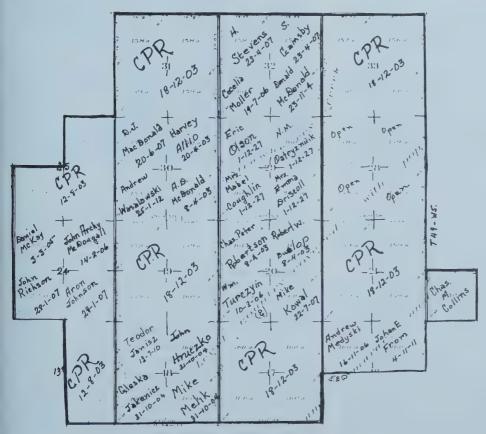
Telfordville

School District No. 1745

December 31, 1907



Telfordville school children about 1929.



The First Homesteaders & Grants to the CPR

The Information on this Map Courtesy of: Alberta Prov. Archives

and Alberta Gov't Map Division

TELFORDVILLE SCHOOL #1745

by Gwendolyn Ross

Records show the Telfordville School was registered on Dec. 31, 1907 by the secretary of the board Mr. H.J. Allio. Miss Emily Rose Brown was hired to teach, she continued for 3 years and then married Fred Grant. She continued to teach off and on until the end of June 1927.

Excerpts from the April 30, 1927 minutes read. "Moved by T. Parry that the sec.-treas. be instructed to write Mrs. Grant before the first of June advising her that the Bd. have decided to pay a lower salary, and she has first chance at \$1,000.00 a year. If she does not accept it to let the Bd. know by June 11". The Sept. 10 minutes show she did not accept it and Miss J.C. Fjell was hired for the stated salary.

The same minutes indicate that S. Collinson moved a motion to have grade 9 pupils pay for their own books. Mrs. Ida Bentley moved motion for secretary to write Fruitland School secretary to find out if their district is prepared to pay the fee to Telfordville for the H. Dunlop son and the S. Rixson's girl.

Earliest minutes available for this report were dated Aug. 17, 1925. In them the tuition of Madiuk children in Weed Creek School was discussed and it was decided to make an offer of \$8.00 for the term ending Dec. 31, 1925 as Madiuks had a better road to that school.

An agreement was signed with Port View school district for tuition of the Thompson children in our school for \$16.00 per year. The following accounts were passed for payment. E. Calvert for wood \$20.00. S. Petryck for janitor work \$8.00.

Jan. 16, 1926 minutes of annual meeting excerpts. P. Petryck's term expired and Mrs. Ida Bentley was nominated by Bill Green, sec. by F. Grant. No other nominations being made she was declared elected. The transfer of Madiuk children to Weed Creek was discussed but ratepayers were against it, but willing to pay tuition fees to that district.

Jan. 7, 1928 annual meeting excerpts. A. MacDougall was elected trustee. Moved by F.J. VanAlstyne, sec. by W. Wells that an extension of 24 ft. be added to the horse barn. Moved by E. Calvert that stalls be numbered for each pupil with a horse and that they were to keep that stall clean. A fork and shovel were to be brought for school use.

In Feb. of that year T. Parry moved a motion at a meeting that seats be fastened to the floor in groups of 3 or 4 and that 1x4 lumber be used. Also a chalk board to be put on the wall.

May 12, 1928 excerpt. T. Parry was to interview Mrs. Wesley Dunlop to arrange for getting the deed to school grounds. Teacher was to be interviewed to see if she was preparing any program for May 23.

Nov. 23, 1929 meeting was called by order of the chairman. The idea was outlined to ratepayers of the changes proposed and what lands to be taken away



Students at Telfordville School - 1945.
Starting at back L. to R. Zig Zag the 2, Annie Switlyk, Lawrence
Kobeluck, Frank Deneve, George Switlyk, Raymond Van Humbeck,
David Yanish, Arnold Scheetz, Francis Kobeluck, John Klein, Alfred
Scheetz, Heidi Merkler, Francis Van Humbeck, Antonius Klein, Steve
Yanish. 2nd Row from Front: Francis Switlyk, Irene Yanish, Shirley
Wurban, Klana Klein, Lawrence Wurban, Valentine Klein, Leo Klein,
Ewald Scheetz.



Telfordville School - 1953.
Fronts: Ed Kasner, Harvey Ankerstein, Ernest Jablonski, Ewald Scheetz, Don Kasner, Alan Ankerstein, Alvin Scheetz, Norman Scheetz, Clarence Bablitz, Willard Ankerstein. Standing: Sylvia Yanish, Barbra Bablitz, Victoria Kobeluck, Alice Ankerstein, Diane Wurban.

from the Telfordville school district and joined to Thorsby. Ratepayers wishing to join Thorsby were asked to express their opinons. L. Schoonover stated his wish to join Thorsby school district. Others who wished also to join were, Madiuk, From, Christofferson and P. Petryck. A McDougall moved motion, sec. by S. Collinson that Telfordville let all of section 15 and half of 16 go to Thorsby. Motion was voted on and carried with 15 for and 8 against. Chairman asked for other suggestions. None forthcoming. Collinson moved motion that trustees attending meeting in Thorsby use their good judgement, sec. by Ken Foy. Carried. It was then moved by McDougall and sec. by

Schoonover that chairman and secretary attend as delegates, the Thorsby meeting on Dec. 2, 1929.

January 10, 1931 meeting. Among the business was a motion by A.J. McDonald to change school banking business from Royal Bank in Leduc to Bank of Montreal Thorsby. Cd.

The auditor's report for Jan. 3, 1936 by William Armstrong showed total receipts of \$1471.30 and total expenses of \$962.91, leaving a balance of \$508.39.

Nov. 1939 minutes recorded a decision to instal a new pump. The teacher's contract was signed for an amount of \$840.00 per year and the board decided to give \$8.00 to the teacher for the buying of Christmas treats that year.

A 1918 library book file shows the following names of pupils who took books out to read. Selma Johnson, Richard Johnson, Stella Kupka, Eugene Rickson, Annie Turcheon, Hugo Johnson, Theresa MacFarquhar, Owen McDonnell, Ed Grant, Martha Martin, Alfred Johnson, Georgia McFarquhar, Maggie McDonald, Frankie Kupka, Johnny Martin, Alma Shilson, Albert VanAlstyne, Katie Horutko, Gordon Killups, Mike Kupka, Alan McDonald, Joe Martin, Sam Petryck, Lillian Wendt, H. Allred, L. Irish, Steve Senio, Alva Thompson, Biddy Martin, Steve Petryck, Jeanette Seidel, Lucille Thompson, Ernest Shilson, George Bentley, Kate McCallum, Margaret McDonald, Ellery Shilson, Gordon McLean and Tom Martin.

The 1929 library file showed these names. Mary Horutko, Astrid Christofferson, Albert Kirchner, Billy Barager, Berta Barager, Lawrence Therriault, Gertrude Jablonski, Rosie Jablonski, Mary Calvert, John Bentley, Katie Petryck, Alf McKay, John Seidel, Helen Johnson, Lillian VanAlstyne, Palma Schauer, Leslie Johnson, Joe Horutko, Oliver Christofferson, Leeson Barager, Edmund Kluczny, Mike Martin, Robert Calvert, Helmer Johnson, Polly Martin and Annie Horutko.

In succeeding years names of other children were added to the lists. Some of them were Arnold Coderre, Elsie Hornell, Lydia Lucas, Mary Karback, Ralph VanHumbeck, Frances Kobeluck, Earl Gaunt, Jimmy Canfield, Steve Yanish, Frances Switlyk, Johnny Rovinsky, Lois Canfield, Frank Deneve, Irene Yanish, Heidi Merkler, Clara Klein, Sylvia Melnychuk, Alfred Scheetz, Shirley Wurban, Antonio Klein, Willard Ankerstein, Lorraine Lunde, Stephanie Krysa, and Leona Klein.

The school continued until the end of June 1954 when it closed and the pupils were bused into Thorsby. The last teacher was Mrs. Grace Schwartz. The school was built on land belonging to Wes Dunlop originally, but when it closed, the farmland was owned by the Karback family. In 1979 their daughter and her family, the Joe Horutkos own and live on it, the NE 20-49-1 W5. The school was located on the NW corner.

The old Telfordville School building was sold to

Edward Scheetz and he moved it to his farm where it is now a machine shed.

STRAWBERRY CREEK COUNTRY

by Albert VanAlstyne

Roads

The approximate centre of the Strawberry Creek country, so called by early settlers, was 25 to 30 miles west of Leduc. The regular surveyed east and west road allowances were at 2 mile intervals and Leduc happened to be situated between 2 of these. As a result the road leading directly west of Leduc became known as the Blind Line. Of course before it became a road it was just a trail twisting and turning to miss sloughs, heavy patches of bush or fallen trees. No bridges or culverts at first and many times homesteaders were forced to wait until flooding creeks subsided. The trail was gradually being extended westward, beginning about the turn of the century and it became a road as improvements took place.

Jim Van Alsyne was road building foreman on sections of the Blind Line; some of the men with him, as shown by his time sheets were Swan Munson, Sam Lafontaine, John Norris, John Forbes, Wm. and John



Road work at the start of a hill side cut with pick and shovels and muscle power - about 1909.

McColman, Wm. O'Niel, Cornelius, John and Edwin Evenson, Wm. Card, Metro Klimozko, C. Ferguson, Michael Wurban, Wasyl Kadyk, John Sealy, John Popik, H. Abel, John Malloy, John Zingle, J. Bamber, George McMurray, Earl Burns, Erik Paulsen. Others who worked on the road further west were Harry Hall, Robert Burgess, Wm. Fox, Howard Stevens, Lawrence Breton, Hal Phillips, Fred and Wm. Grant, D. Findley, Fred and Andrew Anderson, Stephen Tripp, Wm. Stone, Ed Trollope, John Stokke, Fred Martin, D. Gilles, John Bulpitt, G. Donahue, Jim and Nelson McMaster, A. Lottridge, A. Thompson, Bob Carter, and Dan McKay.

In the intervening years some big changes have taken place on the old Blind Line. A large part of it has become Provincial Highway 39 (hard topped) and the



Jim and Mary Van Alstyne in front of house on north C.P.R. about

balance Secondary Highway 622 (oiled).

The following is an example of early road work. On June 22, 1907 tenders were called for work, as described by the council as follows:

"Specifications of work to be done on Strawberry Hill east side, partly in township 49-1 and part in 49-2 west of the 5M. 14 foot roadway to be cut and grubbed clean, in centre of road allowance where possible. 2 culverts to be put in 6 foot by 16 foot with four 10 inch stringers and covered with 8 inch corduroy and 10 inch dirt. Side hills to be graded out to 12 foot surface and wheel guards where necessary. Said work to be completed by July 22, 1907. Contract price to be paid on August 1st provided work is accepted."

A \$100. tender was accepted by councillors D.C.

Breton, C.A. Durstling and W.J. Dent.

In 1911 and 1912 a crew was clearing and ditching the road on the town line from just north of Telfordville towards Pokehasset 7 miles west. The money for this work was a provincial government grant. Some of those who worked on this job were Reginald Bray, William Littleproud, Isaac Kelto, William Mathews, Fred and Albert Van Alstyne, Charlie, Arthur and Harry Brown, Carl Durstling, William Breton (cook), O. Anderson, Matt Hill, Ole and A. Lunseth, Gus, George and W. Price, W. Robson, John Harmon, Richard Ohrn, Fred Floden Jr. and Fred Floden Sr., Martin Johnson, Aaron Johnson, and Lee Rickson. Government authorized pay was



Building the Strawberry Hill road - 1930.

labourer 25¢ an hour, man and team 45¢ an hour, and foreman \$3 a day.

Bridges

The Strawberry Creek, almost any creek for that matter, either large or small, could be a real barrier for the pioneers at times of spring run-off or heavy rainfall. So we can imagine that it was with pleased anticipation that the settlers saw a government crew constructing a bridge, across the Strawberry Creek at Telfordville, on Fred Grant's homestead, in 1907. But the bridge was short-lived. It had been built too low and the spring run-off flood in 1908 swept it away. Another bridge was built in 1910.

The 1907 bridge was built entirely of wood and had some pilings driven into the centre of the stream bed. The main span of the 1910 bridge was of steel and it was long enough to allow the pilings at each end of it to be driven beyond the stream bed. It was built on Fred Van Alstyne's homestead a ½ mile west of the first one. In 1944 it took a beating during the June flood, the highest ever known. For a time water was running over its deck and floating debris carried by the fast current threatened to dislodge it, but it held.

It was this flood which caused so much damage to Elmer Kruger's house and blacksmith shop built near the bridge, both of which were in 5 to 6 feet of water at the flood's crest. The house, which was nearer to the creek, with nearly half the earth under it washed away, came close to being carried off. The cribbing of a well, which had been dug near a corner of the house, was left standing with part of it in the new creek bed. The buildings were moved to higher ground soon afterwards.

The 2 bridges of the Weed Creek were built in 1910 as well, one west of Calmar on the Blind Line and the other north-east of the Thorsby Post Office. Before the bridge was built at Telfordville, the Van Alstynes kept a rowboat at the creek which helped many incoming settlers cross from south to north. It was also used by people living north of the creek to cross first to Smith's and later to Stokke's for mail and groceries; the average flow of creek water being much more than now.

Post Offices and Mail Carriers

Editor Will Godson of the Leduc Record, in an editorial of July 2, 1904, rapped the N.W.T. government for not providing a post office for settlers in the Strawberry Creek area, noting that they had to travel a distance of 20 miles return to get their mail at Calmar post office, over bad roads and 4 creeks without bridges.

The first post office in the Strawberry Creek area was opened by Jim Smith, on the NW-31-49-1-5, in September 1904. Mr. Smith named the post office Telfordville, in honour of R.T. Telford who was born in Quebec in 1860, came to western Canada in 1885 and served with the N.W.M.P. In 1889 he homesteaded land on which a settlement grew and was known as Twenty-Mile House later called Leduc when

the railroad was built through in 1891. In an advertisement in Lowe's Directory of 1899, Telford was listed as being in the lumber and real estate business as well as postmaster and Justice of the Peace in Leduc. Two other men listed in the directory were to become well-known in the Strawberry Creek country: James Van Alstyne, mason, Oliver Avenue, Strathcona; and Paul Therriault, livery, Leduc. In 1905 Telford was elected a member of the first legislative assembly when the province of Alberta was formed.

Other postmasters over the years and the dates they took office were:

John Stokke, April 1907; Basil Breton, April 1913; D.C. Breton, May 31, 1922; Fred Van Alstyne, June 1926; Lorna Breton, December 1941; Doris Richardson, April 1942; and Junie Dolling, November 6, 1946.

For a time during W.W.I, W. Squance followed by J. Van Alstyne were temporary postmasters. The office was closed March 30, 1969.

Telfordville postmaster Smith (1904-1907) and Stokke (1908-1913) brought mail once a week from the Calmar post office. Calmar was named by C. Blomquist, and the post office was located on his land northwest of present day Calmar. Art Lottridge took over as mailman part of 1 winter after Stokke's feet had been severely frost bitten while bringing home a load of coal he had mined along the Strawberry Creek west of Telfordville.

Mail carriers from 5 smaller post offices received mail at the Telfordville office as follows: Pokehasset to the west, Joe Peak postmaster; Stone's Corner to the south, Alfred Stone postmaster; Huggett to the northeast, James Huggett postmaster; Templeton to the northwest, Charles Blackwood postmaster; (Templeton later was called Pemburton Hill with Charles Burton postmaster) and Genesee further to the northwest with Mrs. Lenahan (later Mrs. Mears) as postmistress and mail carrier. Postmasters or members of their families were carriers from the other offices.

When the Stokke family left the district in early 1913, the post office was moved to the Breton and Bray store and Jim Van Alstyne became mail carrier.

In 1914 the Calmar-Telfordville office to office delivery became a rural route, mail boxes made an appearance along the Blind Line and the Telfordville office became a money order office. Jim Van Alstyne kept this route until 1924 at which time he contracted for 2 other routes, one from Leduc to Beaumont and one from Leduc to Calmar and Conjuring Creek offices. Fred Van Alstyne took over the Calmar-Telfordville route, which by now had twice a week delivery. In June 1926 the post office was moved from the W. Breton store to the Fred Van Alstyne home, where it was to be until December 1941. Also in 1926 a rural route was begun from Telfordville with twice a week delivery. This route was by way of Moran's Corner (originally Pokehasset, now St. Francis) to the

west, then south to the Warburg office, east to the Sunnybrook office where it continued east and north to Telfordville. The Warburg office was at the farm home of postmaster Halver Halverson, northwest of present day Warburg. The Sunnybrook office was at the farm home of postmaster M.S. Munden, west of today's Sunnybrook.

Fred Van Alstyne was mail carrier on the Calmar-Telfordville and Telfordville-Warburg-Sunnybrook routes until 1931 when the C.P.R. began bringing mail to its stations. The Calmar-Telfordville route was cancelled and Telfordville R.R. 1 became Sunnybrook R.R. 1.



Closing of Telfordville Post Office, March 31, 1969. Supervisor Postmaster Mr. Letwenuik and June Dolling.

Buildings

Log buildings constructed in the Strawberry Creek Valley during the first few years of settlement were Fred Van Alstyne's, Jim Smith's, Fred Grant's, F. Moeller's, John Stokke's, Jim Van Alstyne's, Fred Martin's, with Frank Merryweather's and Dr. Wood's being up valley to the west and Sam Palmer's to the east. A small store of staple goods was kept first by Jim Smith and later by John Stokke. A mile east of the valley on the Blind Line Harvey Allio built a blacksmith shop, the first in the district. A sign over the door of his shop proclaimed that he did ox and horse shoeing and general repairs. A few years later John Harmon did blacksmithing on the land where Norman Merriam and family live now. John's shop is still standing. He built it of hewn logs with a fake front; a work bench along one wall 20 inches wide by 6 inches thick hewn from a jackpine log is still in place today, (1978).

Early Funerals

Ike McKinney was a carpenter and helped construct the Presbyterian church and built the pulpit. The pioneer church is seldom used but has been maintained in good condition on the church property. Ike died of the "flu" in November, 1918 and his was the first burial in the Telfordville cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Dahlgren of Pemburton Hill were victims of th flu in March, 1920. In September, 1926

Carl Gilbert succumbed to poison gas while down in his farm well, as did housekeeper Edith Sealy when she attempted to help him. These four people were also buried in the Telfordville cemetery. Earlier burials before 1912 took place on the farms of the bereaved.

Telephones

A great boon to residents of the area tok place when, in 1913, the Alberta Government Telephone Company completed its line from Conjuring Creek central to Telfordville. The line was extended to Pokehasset in 1918. For a few years the switchboard was in use at the Telfordville store. During the depression years the Alberta Government Telephone Company found that the cost of maintaining the extensive rural lines was getting beyond its means and proposed to rural subscribers that they form to operate local sections of the telephone system. As a result many of these companies were organized in Alberta, one of them being the Thorsby West Mutual Telephone Co. which in 1934 took over operation of the lines between the Blind Line corner north of Thorsby through Telfordville to St. Francis. Minutes of a public meeting on August 4, 1934 concerning the organizing of a telephone company are not available. Minutes of a later meeting state: "A general meeting of shareholders was held in the Telfordville Hall on Saturday, September 1, 1934 for the transaction of general business and the election of officers for the proposed Thorsby West Telephone Company. Shareholders present were Messrs. Monson, Kelto, Matthews, Dunlop, Hubbard and representatives of Wm. Rae. On behalf of the Telephone Department Mr. E.G. Buckley and Mr. George Baxter were in attendance."

Mr. S.T. Hubbard was the company's first president and Mrs. Barbara Rae first secretary-treasurer. It was in operation for over 33 years with many people taking an active part, especially in later years when the economic situation allowed considerable expansion. On May 19, 1968 the company's lines were disconnected and A.G.T. began service with a new system using underground cable. The pole lines were taken down and material sold at a public auction. Net proceeds were donated to the Northern Alberta Crippled Children's Fund. A motion to this effect was made and carried at the Company's final meeting at Telfordville Hall on December 2, 1968.

Local Newspaper

There are today very few original editions around of a very interesting Telfordville and area newspaper called the Strawberry Plaindealer. Its editor and publisher was A.M. Bray who lived with his father and brother on a farm west of Telfordville. Shortly after the outbreak of W.W.I. all 3 joined the armed forces. The 2 young men were both killed on active service overseas. The first edition of the Plaindealer was

printed in September or October, 1913. It made a note of a wedding on August 28th at the Church of England hall, Telfordville.

The following appeared under the heading 'Notes' - in the Strawberry Plaindealer issue of March 25, 1914: "There is to be a dance at the hall at Telfordville on Friday 27th, the date having been changed to the present one on account of another dance to be given by Mr. and Mrs. Dunlop at their residence on April 3rd.

"All those who have been working at R. Johnson's tie camp during the winter have returned home, the work being at an end. The Rev. G.S. Provis has returned from the old country and will doubtless, resume his ministrations in this district."

Dam on Saskatchewan

Many people today know little or nothing of a project on the North Saskatchewan River which was begun before W.W. I, a war that brought the project to a stop. The following appeared in the November 20, 1913, copy of the Strawberry Plaindealer. "There was an interesting bit of information regarding the work at Rocky Rapids on the dam, which is being built at this point, in the Bulletin (Edmonton) a short time ago. The following are some extracts which will be of interest to the community. An English company, with Sir John Jackson at their head have all summer been carrying on preliminary work with a view to the erection of a big dam at the rapids, with the subsequent intention of supplying power for the cities and towns within the circumference of a big radius. About 30 men have been employed for several months and \$75,000 has, it is stated, been expended with a view of accurately gauging the power possibilities of the location. The dam, which it proposed to erect, will be of reinforced concrete 70 feet high. In order to facilitate the delivery of the big quantity of cement and other material, a narrow gauge spur from Entwistle to the rapids has been talked of. Construction of the dam would require several hundred men. Some local optimists had the railway running along the town line on its way from Leduc."

U.F.A.

Local #1053 of the United Farmers of Alberta was formed at Telfordville in 1920. Douglas Breton was president, Art Lottridge vice-president, and George McFarquhar secretary-treasurer. One of the first undertakings of the Local was the construction of a large livestock corral on Fred Van Alstyne's farm in the valley as a gathering centre for market cattle. Drinking water was provided for by enclosing part of the Strawberry Creek. Certain days were set for receiving cattle at the corral at which time the Local took charge and was responsible for the herding or freighting of the animals to Leduc. They were shipped by rail from Leduc to Edmonton. The cattle were sold through the United Grain Growers Co., which at the

time was a member of the Edmonton Livestock Exchange. This was done in hopes of receiving higher prices through competition among buyers at the sales yard. Cattle were also at times herded all the way to Edmonton by cattle buyers and those with larger herds. Some of these herds came from as far as the Lindale area.

The Local organized an agricultural fair, the first being held on August 14, 1925, at the Telfordville Hall followed by another in 1926. The fair proved to be successful and early in 1927 was re-organized under the Society's Act of Alberta. Being in the Municipal District of Pioneer #490 the organization was named the Pioneer Agricultural Society. Improvements were made at the picnic grounds on Fred Van Alstyne's across the creek from the stock corrals, the latter were also used for the fair's livestock exhibits. The baseball diamond was smoothed down, a larger backstop and a basketball court built, booths, fair display stands, a slide for children were constructed and a well dug. Fairs were held here from 1927 to 1941 in conjunction with sports days and always attracted large crowds. War time conditions brought about their cancellation.



New road being constructed over the Weed Creek Highway '39. Aug. 1959. This would eliminate the curved section on the Highway.

The picnic grounds were used each summer for over 40 years, until 1970 when a new road across the valley was built over part of it. Basketball teams, both men's and women's, were organized beginning in the early years of settlement. A baseball team was fielded almost every year except during the two World Wars. Competing teams were Sunnybrook, Genesee, Antross (Breton), Rainier, Thorsby and Holborn. For several years the Telfordville baseball club was a member of the Pioneer Baseball League. For a time during the depression softball took the place of baseball because of a shortage of money for equipment.

Beef Club

About 1930 a Beef Calf Club was formed at Telfordville as a result of interest created among young people who were showing calves at the Pioneer fair and also with Club promotion by Alberta Department of Agriculture officials who judged livestock at the fair. At first Art Lottridge was club

leader under supervision of Alex Norquay, Federal Dept. of Agriculture and later under George Black, Provincial Dept. of Agriculture. Most Club members showed their animals at the Pioneer fairs and at school fairs in addition to their club's activities. School fairs were held at the Valley View community hall with the exception of 1 or 2 at Telfordville Hall. Family names of Club members were, McKinney, Lewis, Cooper, Seidel, Therriault, Thomas, Muldoon, Morden, Johnson, McFarquhar, Grant, Van Alstyne, Libby, Scobie, Phillips and Gruninger. The club took part 3 times in the Provincial Calf Club judging finals and twice were in third place. About 1936 the Club's activities ceased.

Doctors

Dr. Robert Wood was an early settler in the district, taking up land in the valley west of Telfordville. He built a log house near a stream called Black Creek by surveyors but later called the Sunnybrook, where it empties into the Strawberry Creek. This land is presently owned by Bruce Morden. As Dr. Wood come from the United States, he required a Canadian medical license before being allowed to practise medicine in Alberta. He circulated a petition among the settlers asking for their support in his endeavor to obtain a license, support which was readily given. Shortly after receiving the license, he and his family moved to Leduc where he practised medicine for many years over a large area including the Strawberry Creek country. Another doctor, William Wood, a brother of Robert, managed the valley farm for several years after his brother's move to Leduc. After William Wood left the district, and until the early 1920's, people of the area were dependent on doctors at Leduc for medical treatment. Leduc doctors of the time included Drs. Kidd, Treadgold, Wood, Sutherland, and Baker. During the flu epidemic of 1918 to 1920 they were augmented by army doctors. When driving some distance, as from Leduc to Telfordville, they would leave their horses in a farmer's barn for feed and rest. The farmer would then take the doctor on his rounds visiting the ill and using his own outfit.

In the early years of the 1920's Dr. R. Haworth came to Telfordville. He rented a room and was a boarder at the Douglas Breton's home. His office was in the Anglican manse which had been built near the Church hall.

On May 10, 1926 Dr. McLean began his practice following Dr. Haworth's departure. He took up residence in the Allio house just east of Telfordville. He had brought with him a Franklin air-cooled car but soon sold it and bought a new Ford.

Dr. McLean was succeeded by Dr. Scott on September 1st, 1929. A building had been constructed near the W. Breton store for his use as office and living quarters. Shortly after his practice began he became very ill and because of poor road conditions was taken to Edmonton by aircraft. The plane involved landed ½ mile south of Telfordville,

on an open field of Charlie Seidel's, which had been prepared for it and took off again with no difficulty. Dr. Scott died later in hospital.

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

By Joyce Gaulter

For some years the priest in charge in Leduc travelled to Weed Creek and Telfordville, making his rounds faithfully even though as recorded, "no one came" due to either cold, illness or "swollen creeks." Prior to 1913, the whole of Alberta was under the Diocese of Calgary.

In 1914, Bishop H.A. Gray confirmed a small class of candidates in the hall at Telfordville. This hall was built by the Anglicans but never consecrated.



Telfordville Hall - Oct. 1978.

Before 1915, the Anglican (Church of England) congregation as developed under St. Faith's Mission, Edmonton, was largely made up of British Army families.

In the middle 1920's, Sunday school vans administered to rural children. There were two women to a van, the driver and a teacher. The vans were equipped to live in during the summer. Some of the teachers were, Miss Hazell, Miss Jolly, Miss Brian, Miss Woodruff and in the '30's Miss Lillian Camp and Miss Barbara Onions.

In the 1950's, services were held in the Lutheran Church in Sunnybrook. The clergy were Rev. David Jones and Rev. K. Exham.

At the time of writing, Anglicans in this area may either attend church in Breton or Leduc.

DIARY OF ROBERT ELLIOT

a student Presbyterian Missionary at Telfordville, Alberta from Nov. 1, 1909 to March 28, 1910

October 29, 1909

Boarded train at London 5:45, reached Toronto 9:35, fell in with other men and sat in smoker until 12 o'clock. Discussed immigration problems with man

from Los Angeles; he told of beauties of it, population 325,000. Got a sleeper alright. Retired, didn't sleep any, train stopped about every half hour. Babies weeping every time it jolted. Man next to me snored vigorously, felt thankful that someone was enjoying themselves.

October 30, 1909

Got up 6:30. Train stopped constantly to disembark hunters in plain shirts, old shoes. Got off and got some fresh air. Nothing but rocks and stunted pine and tamarack, few oak. One car well filled with English Church clergyman, wife and small children. Woman across aisle thinks because she has lower berth she can hold both seats, gentleman has to sit with me. Suppose he is expected to sit in upper berth all day. Reached Sudbury 3 hours late.

Passed a pleasant evening in smoker. Old farmer from Prince Ed. County owes his life to tobacco. Young Medicine Hat farmer (Scottish) and commerical traveler have pleasant discussion on Burns and Shakespeare. Has been a pleasant afternoon, clear and sunny. A little ice on water, car terribly hot, night and evening had windows open.

October 31, 1909 Sunday

Splendid night's rest, feel fine. Slight change in country around Dryden, no stones but all the rest rock. Beautiful lakes west of Vermilion, moved watch back one hour.

No sign of animal life today or yesterday. Saw one crow, a few little birds on water and sparrows at S.O.W. Milling Co. elevators. Weather beautiful. Ice on standing water. Country west of Kenora dark like. A.S.A. man on board is a big jolly fat man, eats oranges and took his supper in the diner. Lady and girl child 10 years, across talking religion most of time. Young Englishman and his wife across the aisle, reads, "What a Young Wife Should Know".

Had a splendid dinner at Savoy in Winnipeg for 25¢. West of Winnipeg only one man coiling hay, people going to church.

Oats out west of Medicine Hat. Weather magnificent. Had a fine discussion with oatman and McGill of Galt on Bible and men. Moved watch back one hour.

November 1, 1909

Weather magnificent, very rolling countryside east of Medicine Hat. Claimed to be good wheatland, 160 acres went 43 bushels to acre. West of Medicine Hat gently rolling, very good. Gas here and at Brooks, 50 miles west, farther west a large gravel pit and large wheat fields in stook. Sat on steps most of afternoon. A large crowd boarded train in Strathmore.

Heard of some men ploughing prairies this last spring, filled 183 bushel crates of potatoes off 1/3 acre.

Reached Calgary 1920 hours. Bought collar buttons. Went to Y.M.C.A. and then to Arlington Hotel. Had a good night's rest there for \$1.00 bed and breakfast. Left Calgary at 8 a.m. appeared to be going east. Land very rolling, farther north, finest looking

country since I left Westminster. North of Olds, thickets and scrubby poplar, green pastures.

Reached Edmonton 5:15, rode over on bus, very rough, went to Y.M.C.A. thence posted card to relatives. Went to Hotel Cecil, rooms full. On to Castle House, \$2.00 a day. Caught C.N. to Fort Saskatchewan, arrived 10:30. At Mr. Forbes, convener. Spent night, left 3:30, went to McQueen's for supper (quite sick) thence to Dr. McDonald, late, Rabbit Hill.

Strathcona, pleasant evening, took C.P.R. 8:30 A.M. reached Leduc 9:30. Went to Mr. Riekie and saw Mrs. Philips and Mr. Geo. Philips got out with Peter Swanson. Stopped overnight with Alec Phillips, walked out to Strawberry Creek 9:30. Snowing heavily, very slippery, heavy timbers, nearly all way, few houses. Met one man, got dinner at Mr. Allio's, reached Grant's at 3 p.m. after getting lost, went back to find school on horseback, wrong trail. Went to party for a few minutes at VanAlstynes', retired 11 p.m. Bachelor away (Mr. Elliot was staying with Clayton Grant on Fred Grant's homestead).

November 6, 1909

Studied this morning, went to see Mr. Matthews, had dinner and pleasant visit. November 7. Had service at 2 p.m., 18 out collection 95¢, singing splendid. Bachelor baked bread this evening. Wagon of grain passed at 8 p.m. Next day got up, wrote letter to aunt, early dinner, partridge to eat. Left at 12:15.

Reached George Phillips at 4:20, spent night. Horse had died on Cutfoot creek bank 9:30 Sunday night. Hill slippery. I slept till 7:30 a.m. reached Leduc 17 miles 11:05. Mr. & Mrs. Riekie away. Walked out after attending correspondence. Rode part of way with drunk Swedes, arrived at Petries, widower. 8:30. Slept on sacks, had fine chat.

November 10, 1909

Lots of breakfast porridge and tea, left at 8 a.m. Called in at Phillips, reached Allios' 12:30. Went and helped Mr. Gamsby and Stevenson build log barn, reached Grants' 7 p.m.

November 11, 1909

Fine night's rest, weather clear and frosty. Grant away for cows. Made Golden Syrup, "stick an' lick 'em" biscuits. Wrote to Mr. Forbes and father.

November 12, 1909

Prepared sermon on prayer and cut wood. Trunk arrived, 20° below. Next day helped kill beef, cut wood, went over sermon, rode up to Mr. Grant's behind oxen, very enjoyable evening, beautiful stars.

November 14, 1909

24 degrees below, Sabbath, clear and cold, preached twice, saw most beautiful view for miles at Bentley's shack. Cooked and ate supper by myself. Bachelor away, felt in good trim.

November 15, 1909

Up at 6, wrote letter. Went up to Mr. Lottridge's with two letters I had forgotten to give him Saturday. He had fine adventure as trapper in canebrake in

Missouri.

November 16, 1909

Studied and cut wood toward night. Mr. Kortus and wife and little girl Olive came in from Leduc. He teams from his place to Pembina on G.T.R. Potatoes 4 and 5 cents a pound, beets the same. Told of muskeg, took eight hours to cross, pretty rough country out west. Contractors want 1200 teams at \$2.00 for 2½ day round trip. Next day, weather mostly clear, studied sermon. Heard from relatives. Moon too far south to be seen for hills.

November 19, 1909

Snowing, went with A. Phillips to Wilton Park school to Mr. Hamilton's, a bachelor. Went with Mr. Drader to Ben Piggot's for family worship night. Next day Mr. Duteau, Mr. Mollison for dinner to Mr. MacDonald. Methodist preacher. Mr. Baitz helped put up stove, pitched hay. To Mr. Clark's, saw river. Returned by Alex Petrie's, to old Mr. Petrie's had supper of two potatoes. Slept on floor.

November 21, 1909

Sunday morning, storming. Breakfast oatmeal, no bread, a little milder. Preached at A. Phillips at 11 a.m. 3 present. To Grant's, pretty hungry at 2:30. 13 present, had supper, preached at Blackwoods School 7:30 p.m. 20 present. Feel fine, everyone kind, one foot of snow.

November 22, 1909

Slept splendidly, 23 below, cold wind, east. Went to Hobb boys' for dinner, on to Matt Blackwood's shack. Got locked in, no fire, took door off hinges, back to Hunter's for supper, thence home, reached home after seeing tracks of coyote, timber wolf, saw moose and deer.

November 23, 1909

Spent day writing letters to relatives. S.S. publications, tract Society and studying.

Next day storming, prepared prayers and sermon, sawed wood, wore glasses, slight headache and toothache. Sawed toward night. Got Globeletter from Mother and aunt, expected others.

November 25, 1909

Prepared sermon, went for mail for Miss MacFarquhar, went to their home in afternoon, spent night with them. Fine argument on feeding cows.

November 26, 1909

Had dinner at Gamsby's, went to Phillips for supper, onto Box Social at Willow Creek School, had fine time, very cold. Bought a box for 35¢ belonging to Olga Lindberg. Got to Grant's at 2:30 a.m. total eclipse of moon, got in through a little window upstairs.

November 27, 1909

Got up at 8 o'clock, not very well, studied and washed myself, went to Grant's for night, got there at 6:30, spent pleasant evening with Rod McDonnell. Next day, warm chinook blowing, good services, some compliments cheered me up. Temperance address,

feel splendid, 4 meals, spent night at A. Phillips, retired 1 a.m.

November 29, 1909

Went to Leduc, got ride in quite a distance with Fred Van Alstyne and Bretons, came out with Pete Swanson, fine sleighing. Spent money for leggings, etc. Heard first coyotes. Wrote for bank books, spent night at Phillips'. Next day. Saw new Mrs. Langpap and Mr. Drader, had dinner at Mr. Husband's, visited Englund's, came to Strawberry at 7 p.m. walked home.

December 1, 1909

Up at 6:45, wrote letter, missed postman, wrote sermon on "Worry" Received letters also advertisement. Sawed wood and read papers. Either weasel or martin climbed up over window of shack at night, wild night. Next day. Studied, went to Gamsby's in afternoon, sent in two letters by him.

December 3, 1909

Studied most of day, considerable trouble preparing and rehearsing. Bachelor away all day. 35 below zero.

December 4, 1909

Late in getting up, studied in morning, went to Van Alstyne's and Floden's afternoon, had 4 o'clock tea. Mr. Floden had a gramaphone, on to Blackwoods for supper and night. Miss Burke (teacher) acquainted with Sheho friends.

December 5, 1909

Sunday cold wind, good turn out. Templeton best yet, Grant's and then home, saw Phillips at last, got through all right, hard walking, dark, interesting discussion.

December 6, 1909

38 below, getting frostier. Wrote letter, spent morning at Phillips, called on Ohrn, split wood for Mr. Martin, got home as council broke up, was introduced to Mr. Moeller and Dunlop. Wrote to aunt and Mother, not in bed at 12, retired at 1:30 a.m. after writing some.

December 7, 1909

Wrote to Grandmother, studied some, posted letters, read and looked at Atlas. Next day, up at 5 o'clock, Mr. Grant away for hay, prepared address on Canadian Patriotism, helped mow back hay, did chores, got mail. Letters from relatives and S.S. Publication, also Globe and advertisements.

December 9, 1909

Up early, left 9 a.m. left coat at Floden's. Helped old Ferguson with his load getting it home, couldn't get dinner there, went on 3½ miles farther than necessary to David boys' shack. They have 200 acres cleared all around, dense woods. Bruce, Earl, and Morley. Met Mr. Hannah, Irishman conductor on G.T.R., first at Wanstead wreck. Had supper at Davids' made arrangements to have church there 2:30 Sunday, Dec. 19. Went with Bruce to Jones' after supper. Mr. Jones has two daughters at home, good musicians read 46 Psalm. Slept soundly, retired 12:30.

December 10, 1909

Up at 5 o'clock, Mr. Grant away for hay again. Prepared S.S. lesson and sermon. Mr. Chrishop called in afternoon and left little boy here. Gave them some papers. Went to visit Mr. Fred Martin, missed my way back home. Mowed back hay, helped with chores, studied and wrote. Cold east wind blowing. Snowing. December 11, 1909

Saturday, up at 7, went to see Bomback boys, bachelors, fine little things made by themselves. Sewed on buttons to their shirts, had dinner at Mrs. Wittenbought's, her sons Albert and Carl at Allios'. Mr. Riband, her brother lives with her. Fine people, looked at pictures and post cards, called on Mrs. Peak, made arrangements about service January 2, went to Flodens' for evening, gave them papers.

December 12, 1909

Beautiful day, good attendance, three services, nothing eventful. Told Dougal McDonald about Angus McDonald. Sick horse. Retired 11:30. Spoke on Canadian Patriotism. Next day. Up at 7:30 early breakfast, went to Saunder's for dinner. talked, looked at photos. Went to Huggetts. Mrs. Huggett Sr. and June and baby at home. Baby 4 months old (Pearl). Spoke of new theology and religious matters, read 5th ch. of Matthew, came back 8:30 unharnessed horses, sawed wood, ate supper. Mr. Saunders told all about Hornerites. Left 10:30, came home by creek, afraid I had lost road, broke through 4 times at rapids, not wet, got home 11:45.

December 14, 1909

Wrote letters to relatives. Check \$2.50, another \$5.00 sent. Had breakfast at 4. Mr. Grant away for coal, did not go to bed at all. Took letters over to Mr. Saunders. Visited Mrs. MacFarquhar invited to Christmas, home 11:30, got dinner, did chores, washed and saw beautiful weather. Sawed wood . . . bed at 8 p.m.

December 15, 1909

Up at 8, studied and talked, went to Mr. Fred Martin's afternoon met Carter boys, helped with building, sawed wood, had supper, pleasant evening, talking over stock exchange. Dr. Sproule, had family worship, read Isaiah 55, and Matt. 28. Gave little girl "Children's Friend". Got mail, letters from family.

December 16, 1909

Mr. Grant away for coal, up at 7. Prepared S.S. session and prayers, did chores, left 12:15 for Mr. Collins, found my way. Mrs. Collins, little girl and sister-in-law at home from Wis. and New York. Had family worship, gave number of records. Left for Mr. Dunlop's, reached his place at dark, very welcome; they are from 50 miles south of Ottawa, was section boss on C.P.R. Got \$3.55, and two boys gave \$1.70 a piece. He has four boys, homemade forge, they had turnip weighed 29 lbs. 10 lbs. potaotes. Beautiful weather.

December 17, 1909

Up at 6 a.m. had breakfast, rode part way with

boys to school, called in to Martins for glove that I forgot. Home at 9:15, prepared sermon on "Heaven Wrote Some". Next day. Up at 7, rehearsed sermon, put paper covers on books, read a little. Weather cloudy, shaved and washed, started for Grants 4:20 p.m. Called into VanAlstyne's, went up creek, had supper with Howard Stevens. Stopped overnight at Grant's, had pleasant discussions over political questions.

December 19, 1909

Walked with Roy to Templeton, had dinner at Blackwood's. Walked to Pokehasset to David boys' shack, service two present. Saw first weasel, pure white weasel \$1.00 a head. Lots of grouse, went back to Gamsby's, service there 15 present. Great turnout, service good, rode home with Roy Grant, his sister and Miss Burke. Beautiful weather, frosty night.

December 20, 1909

Up at 6:30, wrote diary, figured my accounts, cash on hand \$3.29, spent \$28.00 copied notes into book, prepared prayers, wrote to aunt and Mother. Read towards night "Sheldon's Story". Next day. Studied S.S. session, had dinner at 11, went to A. Phillips, on to Husband's, had supper, worship at Beaty's, spent night at Clarke's, heard of timber wolves, 30 coyotes, bear before boy on way to school, 17 deer seen by Mollison, lynx shot.

December 22, 1909

Went to MacDonald's, on to Mollison's had dinner worship, helped shingle. On to Alex Petrie's met Donald, Clyde, Marion, and Douglas, on to George Petrie Sr. had worship. On home, rode 3 miles with Dunlop, Mr. McFarquar waiting for me at home to see me about doing chores. Received Globe, Pioneer, 6 letters, razor from Duncan, socks from Mother, cards for children. Presbyterian read advertisements.

December 23, 1909

Did one shirt, 3 collars, laundry. Came over to McFarquar's, are dinner of cold meat breast and rhubarb, studied and prepared papers, did chores, didn't sleep well, rather cold. Next day. Up, made porridge, lick 'em good. Wrote sermon twice, nothing startling.

December 25, 1909

Christmas. Finished sermon, copied it, busy writing all day, lived on toast and chicken, good, bed at 12:30.

Dec. 26, Up at 5, did chores, rode to McFarquar's, to Templeton and back, walked to Phillip's, good turnout, fine weather, talked on Christ's birth, stayed overnight at Geo. Phillips, slept well.

December 27, 1909

Up at 2, away at 2:30, into Leduc at 7 a.m. and breakfast, so stiff I could hardly walk, boarded train for south, met Mr. McMillan from Glencoe, also a Miss Gentleman from Middlemarch, had a splendid trip, good lunch. Teacher from Brockmill put it up. Spent 1½ hours in Calgary, grain in stooks by railroad. Florence met me at station, fine supper, bed at

11:30 p.m.

December 28, 1909

Up at 9, went up town with laundry, 1 shirt, 3 collars, 30¢. Wrote to relatives. Baby quiet so far. Read Ballads of a Cheechako. Retired at 2 a.m. Chinook blowing. Next day, up at 9 a.m. studied and argued theology, pleasant evening with gentlemen and Miss Jackson's brother of Leduc, fine time.

December 30, 1909

Spent morning arguing stage, books, Eye Opener. Talking with Florence over old times. To hear Bengough 31 in evening, 50¢ and 75¢ tickets, very enjoyable, retired 12:30.

December 31, 1909

Left 9:30 train, in blizzard. Men said it was the worst they had seen. Reached Leduc 11:10 warned by station men against hitting the trail for fear of exhaustion and freezing. Argued with them, worst storm in history of country. Hit the trail, west by north wind, frosty 28 below zero, bright moonlight. Trail very heavy, walked without rest 26 miles.

January 1, 1910

Reached home 7 a.m. tired out completely, cheeks frozen, didn't know it.

January 2, 1910

Sunday, away on trail by 8:30 a.m. lunch at Blackwood's. Service at Peak's, back to Gamsby's, bad walking all the way, dark at 5:45. 8 p.m. service at Gamsby's, not large turnout, retired at 12:15. January 4. Came over to Mr. McFarquar's, did chores, read and studied, went to visit Mr. Chrishop next day. Visiting for supper to VanAlstyne's. Fine talk. Got home 8:30 trapper at shack has 2 dogs to draw tent etc.

January 8, 1910

Up at 7 a.m. lunch at Grindy's, on to Breton's, had worship each place. Overnight at Blackwoods. January 9. Services Sunday, Templeton, Grant's, just two there, then Phillips at night, fair turnout.

January 10, 1910

Dinner at Husband's, went north, met small Petrie's and Piggot, service at Beaty's, great singing. To A. Phillips, Sherwood Stevens and Art Lottridge there for dinner. Billy Dent, councillor came at 2 o'clock. Mrs. Swanson over at night.

January 13, 1910

Mr. Blackwood came over to tell of the death of Miss Hill. Funeral Sunday. Worried over funeral service. January 14. Left shack at 2:30 for Matt Hill's, said he didn't want little girl buried like a dog.

January 15, 1910

Reached Hill's at 12:30, glad to see me. House 10 x 12. Girl died of consumption Monday, body in barn, homemade coffin. Mrs. David helped pick out hymns. Large turnout, buried body in field, left handkerchief in grave. People thanked me for service.

January 16, 1910

Sunday service at Templeton, Hobb boys and I cut wood for fire. Large turnout, collection \$1.25. service

at Grant's, Wilton Park 20 out, nice service, overnight at Beaty's. January 17. Called in at Petrie's. Walked all way to Leduc, very hungry, Mr. Rieckie away. January 21. Overnight at Dunlop's.

January 22, 1910

Came home, making lick 'em good. Up to Mr. Grant's after supper. Mr. McFarquar told of seeing comet Saturday evening near Venus, nearer horizon. Tail two or three times diameter of moon. Next day. Did chores for Mr. Phillip's, saw Mr. Petrie and John Thompson. Conducted service at Wilton Park school, large turnout. Next day. Started for Peak's at 4 p.m. had intended holding service but they had made arrangements for Thursday evening.

February 3, 1910

Started at I for Dent's timber limit, helped skid logs and saw wood for supper at Scott's. Read chapter 15 Luke and prayed with men in bunk house. Slept up in bunk with fur coat over me. Didn't sleep awfully well.

February 7, 1910

Walked out to Gamsby's, sawed wood for 2½ hours, worshipped with them, first prayer Mrs. Brown heard for 10 years. On to McFarquar's, then to Huggett's, pleasant evening, read and expounded on 5th ch. Matthew. Next day. Red MacDonnell came in to see me. Cross and Allio here for supper. Cross arguing about oaths and Phrenology. Said Adam and Eve ate apples, how could I explain it? Proved that there was nothing to it, apple not mentioned. Story that three knocks came to his door whenever anyone died. Harvey Allio's black cat scratched at window when horse was sick. He was a Phrenologist and read my head, said I should be a medical man.

February 12, 1910

Called on Mrs. Grindy, Mr. Grindy undergoing operation in Strathcona. On to Blackwoods, Hobbs boys had tamarack blocks for seats, bed made of poplar poles. Art Lottridge trying to get me to go to dance at David's. Thinks I am putting in awfully lonely winter.

February 26, 1910

Started off to Floden's, had worship there. Matt. 5th ch. On to Kelto's, nice lunch, had some lump sugar, mince pie.

March 13, 1910

Sunday, go down to Templeton. Blackwood's out, very hot. Big turnout at Grant's. Ride with Fred Grant east, very late, waded through water, slush and mud, got there 8:25 good attendance. Two days later. In morning called into Allio's. He gave me \$1.00 to help. I work with him, then go to hall, get lumber for seats, help put on roof.

March 19, 1910

Sweep out V.O.A.W. Hall, carry in plank, see bluebird. Get ride part of way with Mr. Stokke, reach town 3:30, see Mr. Rieke. (trip to Irma). Leave for Edmonton 9:30, reach it 7 p.m.

March 22, 1910

Go to McDougall Ave. Methodist Church, take car for Strathcona a lot too late for train, walk down to Leduc, part way with a Negro. Leave for Strawberry next morning at 10 a.m. Ride out with Fred Grant and oxen, no dinner, reach Phillips at 6:30 have supper, leave at 8 reach home at 10:45 p.m.

March 26, 1910

Last Sunday, good turnout all three places. Ride with Hal Phillips and his oxen to Wilton Park School, very slow.

Templeton	19 Sundays
Collection \$18.05	
Telfordville	21 Sundays
Collection \$28.20	
Phillips	12 Sundays
Collection \$ 5.05	
Wilton Park	7 Sundays
Phillips Collection \$ 5.05 Wilton Park	

We had a large number of week night services. This report was from the Mission Field.

March 28, 1910

After service walked to Leduc, arriving 3:45, not so very tired, feet blistered, walked a mile bare-footed, felt better. Beautiful northern lights. Everything closed down in town. Went to Mr. Rieke's stable, lay down behind horse in blanket but soon got terribly cold so I walked streets until 6 o'clock when hotel opened.

Occasional stories ... Mr. Stokke found Mr. Moller's bones, he had gotten lost and disappeared. Stokke's took them home in a sack, dumped them in a boiler. Mrs. Stokke fainted at the sight.

Breton boys tired of living in one room, decided to build 3 rooms downstairs, 3 upstairs. Stairs right in front of door and extend across room in centre. Either had to duck under stairs or climb across them to get from table to stove.

TELFORDVILLE UNITED CHURCH LADIES AID 1977, 20 YEARS OF CATERING

Written for their anniversary dinner by Marion Leeder

Do you remember when we started catering?
We had a new church, with pledges coming up.
All the planning for that weddding supper,
Which meat? Which salad should we serve?
And what dessert? And then we served the ice cream.
That supper was in the Valley View Hall,
So far away, it seemed a different world.
And, Oh! What a long way home that night.
But we were young and in our prime those years ago.
When we look back and see how well it went.

When all our young folks, all along the way,
Would gladly wait on tables when we asked them to
Or help with dishes. There surely were a lot.
And all the pies the neighbors baked for us for
suppers.

For we are still fulfilling pledges to keep our church

upon it's feet.

But we have all worked together, Through thick and thin, and ups and downs. And when we think of all the pleasure, With all the work involved, we still can say We wouldn't have it any other way.

TELFORDVILLE UNITED CHURCH LADIES' AID

by Vivian Morden

At the meeting of the Telfordville United Church Pastoral Charge on Jan. 19, 1936 the following board of managers, nominated by the Rev. T.F. McGregor, were approved. Walter Perley, Calmar; Martin Stellmaker, Dniester; Bruce Cropley, Genesee; Happy Phillips, Wm. Squance, Rainier; A.A. McLean, Strawberry; Harold Artindale, Sunnybrook; Wm. Littleproud, Telfordville; Wm. Armstrong, Thorsby; and C.W. Scott, Warburg. It was also at this meeting that Mrs. Grant moved and Mrs. Fred Van Alstyne seconded a motion that the women of the Telfordville Church be authorized to organize a United Church Ladies' Aid Society.



Mr. & Mrs. McFarquahar, Mr. & Mrs. Saunders, Mr. & Mrs. Littleproud, Mr. & Mrs. Matthews and Mr. & Mrs. Fred Grant.

At a meeting held on Feb. 5, 1936 with the Rev. T. McGregor as chairman, the initial organizing of the Society took place. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Wm. Littleproud, President; Mrs. Fred Grant, Vice-President; Mrs. Fred Van Alstyne, Secretary-Treasurer. Those present to be social committee with power to add to their numbers. Meetings to be held on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month.

The following joined the Society at the March meeting: Mrs. Charles Seidel, Mrs. Aaron Johnson, Helen Johnson, Mrs. Wm. Scobie; Mrs. George Morden, Agnes Morden, Mrs. Fred Sych and Miss Tyyne Dyster. At this meeting plans were made to hold a variety concert at the Telfordville hall on April 17, Mr. Joe Larose to be asked to show films. Proceeds of concert to go towards the cost of purchasing a new stove for the church and the building of a brick chimney.

At following meetings more members joined, some of whom were; Mrs. D. Barager, Miss E. Brown, Mrs. Ron Dolling, Jeanette Seidel, Lillian Van Alstyne, Mrs. A. Saunders, Mrs. I. Lake, Mrs. A. Scobie, Mrs. C. Armour, Mrs. P. Miller, Mrs. S. Ruff, Mrs. Wm. Breton, Mrs. Pearl Haller, Mrs. E. Kruger, Mrs. C. Lucas, Mrs. H. Fowler, Mrs. Schauer, Mrs. A. Canfield, Mrs. J. Larose, Mrs. Wm. Matthews, Mrs. C. Dolling, Mrs. G. McFarquhar, Mrs. Jim Bentley, Mrs. Art Lottridge and Mrs. F. Munson.

At a meeting on October 7th, 1937 arrangements were made for the serving of a chicken supper at the Telfordville hall on October 22nd, between the hours of 6 and 9 P.M., dance to follow. Admissionn for supper and dance, adults 25¢, children 15¢; for dance only 15¢. The evening's profit was \$21.60 after expenses which were; Breton's store \$3.55, hall rent \$1.00 and orchestra \$4.50. Over forty years later (1979) these fall suppers are still being held and attracting many people from a large area.

A Ladies' Aid meeting was held on Feb. 16, 1939 at the home of Mrs. G. McFarquhar with twelve members present and one visitor. Mrs. Alex Saunders gave a report on the annual meeting of the Pastoral Charge. At that meeting the managers agreed that a manse be built and that the Telfordville Ladies' Aid make arrangements for the same. Mrs. T. Wilson made the motion that these arrangements be made and notices be sent out to all points of the Church asking for donations of cash, material and help to build. Moved by Mrs. G. Morden that the manse be built on the southwest corner of the Telfordville Church property. Carried.

At a meeting held at Mrs. Wm. Breton's on April 20, 1939 the following were appointed, a building committee, for construction of the manse; Fred Van



Telfordville United Church Ladies Aid - 1973.
Lillian Bilar, J. Dolling, Mary Lunde, Anne Grant, Vivian Morden,
Marion Leeder, Clara Scobie, Jessie Robinson, Bessie Mellick, Betty
Ollenberg. Seated: B. Van Alstyne, Irene Grant, Mrs. Hicks, Hilda
Schmidt, Julia Ollenberg, Violet Borosewich & Corinne.

Alstyne, George Morden, and Alex Saunders. First meeting of the Ladies' Aid in the new manse was on Jan. 18, 1940. The manse well was dug by Ron Dolling.

An invitation from the United Church Women's Missionary society to become an affiliate was accepted March 1939. In April of 1939 gifts of remembrance were given to Mrs. Lucas and Mrs. Sych as they were leaving the district. Mrs. I. Benham of Sunnybrook addressed a meeting regarding ways and means of raising money for the Red Cross.

The first marriage in the manse was Erling and Mary Lunde's on January 15, 1940.

Mrs. McTavish assisted the Society greatly in its formative years as did Mrs. Hutchinson when she in turn came to live in the manse. About 1969 the manse with about an acre of land was sold when the present manse was purchased in Warburg.

The Ladies' Aid began catering in 1957 to raise funds for a new church which was built in 1961. The dedication service was held March 31st 1962. In 1975 they purchased a new organ for the church. Each year they assist in meeting our Church's allocation to the Pastoral Charge and contribute to various charitable organizations. The society has continued to cater from 1957 to the present (1978).

Mrs. Stella Littleproud was first President from 1936 to 1939; Mrs. Louise Seidel, 1940-1941; Mrs. Emily Grant 1942-1943; Mrs. Eva Morden, 1944; Mrs. Bertha Van Alstyne, 1945. Other Presidents have been Eileen Schubert, June Dolling, Marion Leeder, Vivian Morden, Lillian Bilou, Mary Lunde, Julia Libby, Jessie Robinson and Ruby Brewster. Mrs. Bertha Van Alstyne was Secretary-Treasurer from 1936 to 1939 also 1942-1943; Mrs. Georgie Wilson, 1940-1941; Mrs. Emily Grant 1944. Others have been Ada Matthews, Pearl Haller, Julia Libby, Irene Grant, Marion Leeder, June Dolling and Anne Grant.

The present executive is: Vivian Morden, President; Betty Ollenberg, Vice-President; Anne Grant, Secretary-Treasurer and June Dolling, Manse Committee. For the past many years of our meetings have been held on the second Thursday afternoon of the month at the homes of members.

HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The church was originally Pemberton Hill church and later became known as the Telfordville church.

Pastor E. Duesterhoeft began work towards establishing a church in the district in 1934. He held services in the Templeton School, then was joined by Pastor A. Goos and they both carried on the work, serving their own congregations at the same time.

As this was a new area of settlement with the majority of the families recent immigrants, money was very scarce. They wanted to build a church, but it



Paster A. Goos, his wife and son George. He was Thorsby's first Lutheran pastor and also served several other congregations in the district in the 1930's.

would have to be of logs. A group of men went in search of good timber and a Mr. Krentz from near Sunnybrook gave them permission to cut logs on his land. They felled the logs and a committee of 3 men hauled them to the proposed building location. The men who hauled them were Philip Albrecht, Ted Meyer and Rudolph Kirchner. Work progressed even though it was a bitterly cold winter. The logs had to be trimmed after they were unloaded. Mr. Grohn was the carpenter on the church and it was dedicated in the fall of 1936. Others who worked on the church were Mike Gellert, Fred Hartfelder, Rudolph Hebner, Fred Gellert, Herman Knull, Rudolph Knull, Herb Hartfelder, Otto Jehn, Herman Kivitt, Stanley Alexander, Harry Schultz, Ralph Tober, Karl Mielke and Bill Tober.

Several pastors were present for the dedication service with Pastor Duesterhoeft as the main speaker. The first child baptized in the new church was Gordon Kirchner.

Pastor K. Wulf was called in 1937 and he served Telfordville, Sunnybrook and Warburg churches until 1940. During this time the need for a parsonage arose and it was built.

When Wulf left Pastor Hannemann was called and he served until 1946. The church being of logs, needed finishing and in 1941 blue building paper was put over the inside walls. A meeting of the congregation was called and it was decided to try to borrow money from the Synod to finish the church. The loan was granted and the outside walls were covered with siding, the inside with gyproc and the floor was covered with a hardwood flooring. The balcony was built and the old square windows were replaced with new Gothic design windows "real church windows". The church was painted inside and out and its appearance was greatly improved. A barn was also built for the pastor's horses.

Through the efforts of Rudolph Kirchner and Ed Schmidt a church band was organized in 1937. Its members were Rudolph Kirchner on trumpet, Ed Schmidt trombone, R. Becker on bass, Gary, Bruno



Sawing wood for the St. Johns Lutheran Church, Telfordville - 1946.

and Rudolph Kirchner on trumpets, Erwin Schmidt trombone, Adolph Schmidt on bass horn, Leon Schmidt on clarinet and Albert Kirchner trombone. A year later Leo and Laura Klemky joined the band with a trombone and trumpet. In the warm weather practises were out of doors and the sound could be heard a long way off. Many of these men had never played an instrument before joining and were taught by Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Kirchner. A men's choir consisting of Ralph Hebner, Stan Alexander, Herman and Ted Knull, Bill and Ralph Tober and Ed Simons was active.

In 1940 a choir was formed from the Albrecht, Kirchner, and Schmidt families with all members participating. Songs were sung in 4 part harmony of soprano, alto, tenor and base. Adolph Schmidt accompanied the choir on violin. There was no organ in the church at that time. The choir sang for over two years. Then an organ was purchased.

A young people's choir was organized in 1943 with the help of Pastor Hannemann. It was accompanied by Frieda Schmidt on the organ and Adolph Schmidt on the violin. Some of its members were the Gellerts, Hartfelders, Albrechts, Schmidts, Kirchners, Mielkes and others. This choir continued until some of the members left to go working in other areas.

The church continued to flourish and after 1952 it was served by the Thorsby pastors. It was raised and put on a basement during the 1960's. The women of



Rev. John and Heather Kleiner with their son John Paul in Dec. 1969.

the church organized a Ladies Aid group and worked tirelessly to assist the congregation and acquire items for the church as they were needed. After the merger with the Thorsby parish they helped with furnishing articles for the manse in Thorsby. In 1974 an electric organ was purchased with the aid of an organ fund that had been set up. God continues to bless the congregation in 1979.

THE ARNOLD BABLITZ FAMILY

by Arnold Bablitz

I was born to Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Bablitz on Aug. 14, 1917 at South Cooking Lake, Alberta and was baptized in the Ellerslie Lutheran Church.



Augusta Bablitz Family.

In 1921 my father died and then we moved from South Cooking Lake to Calmar. It took us two days travelling to get there. The furniture and other belongings were packed onto a hayrack and we chased the cattle with our uncle's help. Life was very hard for our mother alone with six kids. My brother Ferdinand was ten and a half and my youngest sister Ida was six months old when our father died.

I grew up northwest of Calmar and attended Rosehill School. During the winter months my dog Trixie pulled me on a sleigh to and from school. I played baseball and hockey for Calmar in my teenage years. When I was 14, Calmar had to play baseball at Thorsby on May 24th and of course I skipped school



The Arnold Bablitz Family.
L. to R. Sandra Bablitz, Barbara Hebner, Mother, Clarence Bablitz,
Wayne Bablitz, Father, Debra Koziol.

to catch for Calmar. My teacher warned me that this would show on my report card and it did.

We were in a hockey league with Breton, Antross,

Thorsby, Calmar and Conjuring Creek.

In the fall of 1939, I bought my farm in the Thorsby district; 30 acres was broken and the rest was in bush. Ed Roth did all of the brushcutting for about \$4.00 an acre.

In 1942 I married Ella Snider, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Snider and we had six children. Clarence our oldest son married Valerie Sommers. They are living on an acreage in the Millet area and have four sons: Shaun, Kevin, Tracy and Darnell.

Barbara married Dennis Hebner and they are farming in the Warburg area. They have three girls and one boy, Charlene, Cheryl, Carmen and Durrand.

Richard, our second son died when he was two years old.

Wayne, our next son, married Marlene Mottl and they are making their home in Wetaskiwin. They have one son Chad.

Debra married Russ Koziol and they have one son Trent. Their home is in Wetaskiwin.

Sandra our youngest is attending high school in Thorsby.



Arnold and Dorthy Bablitz and Grandson.

On June 23, 1973 I married Dorothy Gavigan. Besides a wife I gained 5 stepsons - Ronald and Sharon and sons Shawn, and Shane of Edmonton; James and family, Danny, Colleen and David of Glen Park; Terry and Darlene and family, Sandra, Jay and Evan of Berrymoor; Keith, Diana and family, Charlene and Ryan of Berrymoor and Ross and Margaret of Leduc.

Dorothy and I are still residing on our farm.

JAMES ALEXANDER BENTLEY

by Harvey Bentley

James Alexander Bentley, my grandfather, was born in Lancaster, Ontario on July 20, 1872. As a boy he helped his father work on an agricultural farm looking after hogs and bulls. He also told of putting loose hay into one of the first balers - a horse-powered hay press where the horse walked round and round on a long pole. At the age of 25 he left home to work in the sawmills in Wisconsin with the Grant boys.



Bentley boys, George, Gordon and Jock with June and Jean MacFarquhuar in 1926.

From there he and the Grants travelled to Edmonton and later found their way to the Telfordville area. About 1904 Grandpa took up homesteading on NW 10-2-50-W5 and found things pretty tough so he returned to the mills to work for John Walters of Edmonton who owned a large lumber mill. He started out driving horses and freighting supplies up the North Saskatchewan River to the logging crews who were cutting logs to float down the river in the summer. He also hauled supplies to the cook barge as it trawled down river and he helped move lumber around the mill site. John Walter's Mill was east of the south end of the High Level Bridge. Grandpa often talked of crossing the river ferry to the north side of Edmonton and could tell in detail how the High Level Bridge was built as he worked just below it at the mill.

In 1911 he met Alexina Dunlop and on May 28, 1913 they were married. They had 3 sons: George, born March 31, 1914, Jock on May 21, 1915, and Gordon, born Nov. 30, 1918. The family lived in South Edmonton until 1917 and then they rented a ½ section of land at Clover Bar. They stayed there for 5



James and Alexina Bently. Harvey and Georgina. Far right: Valarie (Gordons eldest daughter) - 1948.

years where they did mixed farming.

On April 1, 1922 they came to the farm on the Blind Line, 3 miles east of Telfordville. This quarter, NW 22-49-1 W5, was the Went Homestead. He had given up his previous homestead which was taken up by William Rae. On the way to the farm, Grandpa drove the horses and wagon hauling their belongings and the family rode with Angus McDougal in his Ford car; he was a neighbor of the Bentleys. All of the farm was not cleared when they moved there so Grandpa, with the help of his sons, cleared and broke the

remaining land with horses. In fall when it was harvest time they stacked their bundles and later on a threshing crew came in and threshed the stacks.

For several summers he worked on the road crew, building the Blind Line. All the work was done by horses and the axe. Angus McDougal cut his foot with an axe on the hill ½ mile east of Bentleys and the hill took the name of Cutfoot Hill. The hill a mile west of the Cutfoot was named after Harvey Allio, a blacksmith who settled near there in 1904. In 1928 and 1929 Grandpa maintained the Blind Line from Telfordville to Week Creek hill with a horse drawn road drag pulled by 5 horses.

The first car the Bentleys owned was a Chevrolet 490 touring car with a canvas top. Grandpa bought it from a relative in 1928.

In 1930 he bought his second quarter of land, SW 33-49-1-W5, from Fernan Deneve. The Bentley farm was a "stop-over spot" as it was located near a blacksmith and between two tough hills. Many people dropped in for tea and often a meal or to use the phone.

In 1935 he bought his first tractor, a 20-30 Wallace, from John Hier. They did their first field work with it in the spring of 1936. George, his oldest son (my father), did a lot of custom breaking with the Wallace and also broke his own land with it. During the winter the boys were often sent up the Strawberry Creek to mine their own coal, usually just west of the old Port View School.

After helping their father farm for a few years, the boys went their own ways. George became a farmer. Jock became a truck driver and married Vivian Barager. Gordon married Margaret Diercks and they farmed SW 33-49-1-W5 for a time when first married and Gordon later took up truck driving. Margaret died in 1965. Gordon later married Alma Moeller Phillips and they live in Leduc. Gordon and his first wife had 3 children, Valerie who lives in Spruce Grove, Douglas and JoAnne who both live in Edmonton. Jock later also remarried and lives with his wife Madeline and their son in Edmonton.

Before Grandpa and Grannie finally retired in Thorsby in the former home of Laurence Ruzicka, they spent several winters living in George Bentley's first house on his farm. Later they sold the farm and moved to Thorsby and lived in a house west of the cheese factory until Grannie's death in 1952 at the age of 64.

Grandpa lived with his 3 sons and their families until his death in 1964 at the age of 92. We'll always remember him for his soft spoken, mild-mannered friendliness as one of the pioneers of the Telfordville area. Grandpa and Grannie are both buried in the Telfordville United Church Cemetery.

WILLIAM BILOU

I was born Mar. 23, 1921 in Leduc and started

school there, as Dad had the blacksmith's shop. In the spring of 1927, we bought a quarter of land north of Thorsby. We attended the old Fruitland school for 1 year and then the new school for 6 years. Travel to school was usually by horse, but sometimes I would hitch our dog, Buster, to a wagon. For 1 year, I went by horseback 4 miles to Thorsby school. At the age of 14, I started work for Mike Bittner, when I was paid \$30 a month in the summer and \$15 a month in the winter. The next 8 years I worked for Rudolph Stein on the threshing crew pitching bundles. We usually got \$3 a day for a man, team, and wagon. For a few years, Dan Schmidt, Bill Schmidt and others besides myself, hauled gravel in the winter from the old Holborn Ferry to Thorsby for \$2 a yard. We could haul $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards a trip and make 1 trip a day.

In Nov. of 1943, Marie Dorn and I were married. We lived north of Thorsby that year, then lived and worked on Fred Gunsch's farm. In the fall of 1944 we bought a quarter of land SW 27-49-2 W5 north of Sunnybrook. We started with 4 cows and 4 horses. That summer and the summer of '47 we were hailed out completely. I did some logging on the Hollman quarter and the school section for our buildings. We mined our coal out of the Strawberry Creek on the school section west of us. In 1948 we bought a second-hand car for \$75.

Our eldest daughter, Barbara, was born Mar. 12, 1946 in Edmonton. Linda, our second daughter, was born Dec. 15, 1949. In 1956 we purchased another quarter of land NE 21-49-2 W5 from Alex Coull.

Barbara married Stewart Brewster from the Strawberry district and has 2 children; Lisa and Sam. Linda married Clarence Bittner from the Genesee district and has 2 children; Paula and Kimberly.

Lillian Theriault, nee Van Alstyne, and I were married Oct. 7, 1972. Lillian has 2 children; Elaine and Allan. Elaine married Ronald Wyllie of Warburg and has 3 children; Heather, David, and Kevin.

We built a new home in 1977 with the help of family and neighbors.



Bill Bilou going to Fruitland school with dog and wagon. He also used this dog and wagon to go to Thorsby - about 4 miles.



Bill and Lillian Bilou on way to Sunnybrook picnic parade in 1974.



L. to R. Austin Dunlop, Mrs. Jim Van Alstyne, Albert, Fred and Ethel Van Alstyne, Alec Robinson, Harry Dunlop and driver Ralph Dunlop in 1914.

Telfordville Store about 1930. Men with loads of lumber and slabs have stopped to feed their teams and eat lunch at the store.



Hockey on Lake Eleven about 1940. L. to R. Russell Barager, Gordon Oscroft, Frank White, Albert VanAlstyne, Lawrence Theriault. Elmer Johnson, John Seidel, Bruce Morden and Myron Miller.





L. to R. Mrs. Douglas Breton, Lorna Saunders (later Mrs. Bill Breton) and Bill with Douglas' 1920 1 ton truck used to haul goods for Bretons store at Telfordville.



Avon Moor ball team. L. to R. G.M. Hutchinson, Mike Mellick, Alex Adamic, Archie MacLean, Harold Forster, Pete Donaldson, Abe Neufeld. Kneeling in front: Fred VanAlstyne.



Unloading hay. Fred Van Alstyne on rack. Mrs. Van Alstyne holding Brian Richardson, Darryl Richardson beside her.

THE STEWART AND BARBARA BREWS-TER FAMILY

by Stewart

I was born July 4, 1945 in Barrie, Ontario. The following April the family which consisted of Dad, Mom, brother Wayne and myself settled in the Telfordville district to farm.

I took my first 6 years of school at Avon Moor School — a mile walk from home, and, later travelled by Ed Alton's bus to Thorsby. I enjoyed playing baseball with the Strawberry and Genesee clubs, and belonged to the Strawberry 4-H Beef Club for years. I



Stewart Brewster Family. Stewart, Barbara, Lisa, Sam - 1978.

worked out for the neighbours around home. Then in 1963 I went to Edmonton to find work. I Started working for an ornamental welding shop where I acquired a welding license. I worked for the same company for 11 years, the last 6 years as shop foreman.

On September 4, 1964 I married Barbara Bilou, daughter of Bill Bilou of Sunnybrook. Barbara was born March 12, 1946 in Edmonton. She attended Port View School for only 1 year because of having to walk 2 miles and cross the creek twice. Barbara then attended Sunnybrook School up to grade nine and then attended Thorsby School. She was a member of the Telfordville Sewing Club and the Strawberry 4-H Beef Club. The first year Barbara had a Hereford steer and on achievement day the calf got scared of the crowd. The steer dragged Barbara's dad across the road from the Strawberry Hall and through a barbed wire fence. The calf ran a mile and while running along the barbed wire fence cut off a good portion of his tongue. Barbara was unable to show the calf because it had to be rushed in to be slaughtered.

Our first child Lisa was born April 27, 1967 and our son Sam on June 16, 1970. They both attend Warburg School.

In 1967 we purchased the Bill Daruda farm (SE 27-49-2-W5) north of Sunnybrook next to Bill Bilou (SW 27-49-2-W5), where we presently live. There



Stewart Brewster home, built in 1974 with the help of our families.

wasn't a shelterbelt so the first 5 years we planted over 500 spruce trees around the yard.

We were wanting a mini motor home so I decided to try my hand at building one. It turned out not too badly so I went on to make a goose neck 4-horse trailer for Roger Gunsch. An uncle of mine decided he would like a motor home so I built it. I also built a 10-foot chassis mount camper and three shells for trucks.

In 1977 we purchased a school bus from Cedric Dolling and are presently transporting children from Genesee district to the Warburg School which I enjoy very much.

EDWARD AND ALICE CALVERT

by Bob Calvert

Edward Calvert came to the Telfordville district in the fall of 1922. Born in Lurgan, Ireland near Belfast, he left home as a teen-ager to work his way on a boat to Canada. He worked as a farm hand across Canada, Dakota and settled in Montana. It was here he met and married my mother, Alice Maud Price from Canadensis, Pa. She had come west to visit a cousin in Montana and was working in a small post office where my father met her. They both took a homestead in the Canrad area and started farming. Things went rather poorly for them in those years with drought, grass hoppers, army worms, etc. so after several crop failures my father went into Canada for spring and harvest work.

In the fall of 1922 he located a log house to use on



Ed and Alice Calvert in their 1916 Model Maxwell car.

what later became the Fred Gunsch farm north of Thorsby. He then went home to prepare for the move. Horses and machinery were loaded in box cars and left for Leduc. Mother and Dad and sister, Mary, age five, loaded into the Maxwell car and started out too. They moved into the log cabin and it was here on the 17th of November 1922 that I was born.

The next spring they rented W1/2 of sec. 19 and SW of sec. 28 from a Leduc man, Dan MacKenzie, who claimed to be one of the first men west of the Weed Creek with an axe on his shoulder. He had worked on survey crews on the Blind Line, now Highway 39. He had homesteaded the SW of sec. 28 and had a log barn and fair house for those days. We moved there and were quite comfortable. Wood was plentiful for fuel and coal for the digging on the Strawberry Creek a few miles west of us. We got out mail on the Calmar to Telfordville mail route I think once a week by Fred Van Alstyne. Most of the shopping for clothes was from T. Eaton's catalogue. The roads were not so good, muddy in summer and drifted in winter. The Model T could get around in the summer some of the time but wasn't used in the winter. I recall one Sunday in 1928 or '29 when we all went for a drive in the Model T to watch the road equipment and men working on the railroad grade just west of what is now Thorsby.

We also had NE of sec. 34 north of Thorsby which was to be our own place and home of the future. Clearning land was slow and fields were small. Frost and hail took their toll a couple of years in the early '30's. Crops got a little better but prices were poor. However our grain could be sold in Thorsby now instead of hauling to Leduc. Stores and garages were built, hotel and lumber yard, drug store and Dr. Hankin arrived as Thorsby grew. Life seemed a little easier now.

However mother's health started to fail and in the fall of 1935 she was taken into the Royal Alex in Edmonton and on the 15th of December died of cancer.

Our father did the best he could to carry on but also took sick the following spring and also died of cancer on the 6th of June 1936. So ended the career of the Ed Calverts. Mary married Frank Muma and they had two children, Viola and Edward. I married Lavina Feldman and we have two children Linda and Monte.

BOB CARTER

written by Jack Scobie

Bob Carter was born in Maiden Head, Berks. England and came to Canada in the early 1900's. He operated a butcher shop in Leduc for quite a number of years, then moved to the Telfordville district and farmed there until the late 1930's.

He then sold his farm and returned to England where he passed away at the age of 89 years. Bruce



Bob Carter when he left for England.

Morden now farms the former Bob Carter farm.

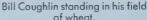
BILL AND MABLE COUGHLIN

by A.B. Carron

In or about 1928, Bill and Mabel Coughlin purchased a half section of land in the Telfordville area, namely the NE and SW of 29-49-1-W5.

Bill and Mable, for many years, operated the Capital Beauty Parlor in the city of Edmonton. Bill was







Bill Coughlin and ducks he got on a hunt - 1920.

in charge of the men's section, and Mable was in charge of the beauty parlor and student classes. Their shop was one of the first in the city to introduce permanent waves for women. In 1937 they occupied a building on 101 St. and Jasper Avenue. The street floor accommodated the beauty parlor, and the cellar floor, the men's barber shop.

In the 1940's due to age, ill health and changing times, the barber shop was closed and only the beauty parlor and school continued operation.

John Green, one of the Coughlin's barbers, and well-known in the Thorsby area, re-established himself in that town.

Due to ill health, Bill and Mable retired about the 1950's. One of the girls in the shop (Melba) had purchased the SE 29-49-1-W5. This quarter, plus the

2 owned by the Coughlins, are now owned by A.M. Sheetz.

One of the first renters was Hank Hall, a brother of Mabel's. Others who rented or worked for the Coughlins were; A.B. Carron, now of Warburg, Jim Grant of Thorsby, and Fred Smith of Athabasca.

The farm, although very much a hobby farm, was a place of many pleasant and restful weekends for the Couglins and their city friends at their "Country Estate".

EDWARD FORSTER

by Florence Forster Glasere

The country around Thorsby and Sunnybrook area, around the years 1925-1928, became known to many farmers in the Leduc area through Stone's Sawmill, where they made trips with a sleigh and usually four horses which took three days return to bring home lumber for building their barns and granaries, etc.

The road was rough and long as it wound around through the Telfordville hill which was steep and treacherous at the time as I remember it. For the people who went out there to make their homes and open up their farms, it was hard work, but also an adventure.

When the land across the road from the Case farm, on the main road to Stone's corner, came up for sale, my father, Edward Forster, put in his bid and bought it for a cousin, Wolfgang Pfisterer, who had come from Germany and was making his home at our place at Nisku on the farm. This land was the SE 5-49-2-W5. A little log hut was put up to be a beginner's start for a home. I remember a door was made out of two wide boards nailed together, the kind I had never seen before. In the fall and early winter months, my dad and cousin would go out there cutting trees for lumber and trying to get some land cleared, but to my cousin, it seemed a long distance from relatives so he did not seem too interested in living out there. This land was sold to Mr. & Mrs. Paul Krueger and sons and my dad and other relatives went out to Eckville west of Red Deer and bought land there. Dad's brothers, Mike and Andrew Forster, had also paid down on some farms near the quarter Dad had, but never lived there and resold them later.

One experience I remember very well was when my mother, my friend, Phillip Fry, and I tried to take some food out by car for my dad and cousin. The road was muddy in places and rough and the old Oldsmobile would heat up. We'd have to stop to let the engine cool down, especially when we got to Telfordville hill. Luckily we had a can and there was water in the ditches to refill the radiator. To say the least, we took home plenty of mud on our shoes and in the car from the west as a souvenir.

My second encounter with Telfordville hill, was

when my late husband, Otto Glasere, was an auctioneer at the time. He had a sale for a bachelor by the name of Tony Mayo. It was late in the fall and the roads were icy. If it would not have been for Mike Bittner. Ernest Hartfelder, Everett Maine, our clerk and my husband pushing the car, I would have never been able to drive up the hill on the car's own power, which was then known as a Terraplane, but without grips.

Now when I drive into that part of the country with my sons, Vernon and Glenn, and his wife, Anna (nee — Bredehorn), and her mother, Mrs. Lemke, I wish that my husband, my dad and cousin would still be with us and be able to see how the country and roads have improved. The people out there strived and worked hard to build up farms and homes and now they have hard surfaced roads and a lovely bridge built across the Telfordville hill. Now it seems only a short distance from Leduc.

RAY AND SHIRLEY (WURBAN) FORTIER AND FAMILY

by Millie Kelsey

Shirley married Ray Fortier, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Fortier of Turner Valley, on July 26, 1957. Ray is employed as a carpenter, and Shirley works in the hospital, in Victoria, B.C.



Shirley and Diana on Daniel Wurban's farm.

They have 5 children: Darlene born July 1, 1957; Clayton born June 7, 1969; Brenda born Sept. 26, 1961; Kelly born Nov. 13, 1967; and Cory born Dec. 10, 1969.

Darlene is living in Victoria with her child.

EDWIN MARTIN GRANT U.E.L.

by Edwin Grant (Grandson)

After their sons Roy, Mac and Clayton came west to Alberta, Ed and Cathie decided to "come out west" (that old pioneer spirit).

In 1907 they moved to Alberta bringing their only daughter Lelia with them. They made their home with their son Roy.

Grandfather, having suffered a broken hip some years previous to this, had taken up shoe making and had a shop in Lancaster, Ontario.

After coming west, even though an old man, he made shoes and repaired shoes and harnesses until he contacted the flu and passed away in the spring of 1920 at 78 years of age.

Grandmother continued to keep house for her



Grandma Grant (E.M.) with baby ducklings.

sons Roy and Mac until she took ill and passed away in 1926.

There was no one that could equal "Gramma Grant" in regards to cooking. She was a cook of the old school, using natural herbs and spices and all good things. You would meet the aroma of the Christmas and New Year's dinners, as the door was open to welcome you, there was just no way that a small boy's stomach could do justice to one of those meals.

One of my vivid memories is an episode that took place one afternoon while Gramma and Grandpa were babysitting me (2½ years of age). Grandmother was washing clothes and had insisted that Granddad remove his undershirt. He was standing in the kitchen waiting for someone to bring him another shirt when I discovered that he had a mole (birthmark) on his side, just above the top of his trousers. I reached up and pinched it; Granddad yelled, and then bedlam broke loose. In the end I backed up and tripped and fell into a dishpan of water that was on the floor. Finally I was sitting in a rocking chair wrapped up in a blanket, Grandma was wiping water off the floor and Grandpa was back in his chair with tears from laughter, running down his cheeks.

Their daughter Lelia met a young man. Wm. J. Lottridge, who had a homestead in the district. They were married in 1910 and lived on the homestead until his death in 1942. Lelia had a farm sale and went to keep house for her brothers Roy, Mac and Clayton. She passed away in 1964 after having retired to Thorsby with Mac and Clayton.

GRANT U.E.L.

By Edwin Grant

It would appear that the pioneer spirit is hereditary, as the history of many of our western pioneers goes back to the early history of Eastern Canada and even beyond that to early British, French and Dutch Colonies in Eastern North America.

This is the situation of the Grant family. Sometime about 1760, 3 brothers arrived in the British colonies of North America in the Chesapoake Bay area, where they had grants of land from the Crown.

One of the brothers, George Grant, was loyal to the crown, his wife being Mary Stewart of the House of Stewart. More than likely this had some bearing on his loyalty. However, he and his wife and family made their way to Canada and settled on a grant of land along the St. Lawrence River, west of Cornwall, near Morrisburg. There they raised a family and remained for several generations.

Finally in 1902, George Grant's great grandson, Fred Grant, came west to Manitoba, then on to the Dakotas and to Montana, where he saw government advertisements regarding homestead land in Alberta. He left Butte, Montana, with 2 other men, Harvey Allio and James Eaton.

On their arrival in Strathcona (South Edmonton), they went to a livery barn to listen to conversations of other land seekers. While at this livery barn, the local homestead Inspector arrived from a trip southwest of Edmonton. He was much impressed with the land along the Strawberry Creek, where his sons had filed on homesteads in the Fruitland district. After talking and considering this information, Allio, Eaton and Fred Grant made their way to Leduc, where they arranged to meet a government land guide named Jim Van Alstyne, who lived north of Calmar. Upon arrival at Van Alstynes, they found that Jim Van Alstyne was still out with another party. He had left word that they were to continue on to the Weed Creek, where he would meet them and guide them to the Strawberry Creek area. They went on as instructed and met as arranged, and continued their journey to the banks of the Strawberry Creek. They continued down to the



Fred Grant's homestead about 1911.



Mrs. Bertha VanAlstyne and Mrs. Emily Grant in 1949. Both came to Telfordville in 1908.

Creek flats, where they camped for the night, about a mile east of Telfordville on the NE 36-49-2 W5. Eventually, Fred Grant homesteaded this land. Allio filed on NW 30-49-1 W5. Eaton, who was married and had a family, decided not to homestead so far from civilization. Later, he acquired land in the Michigan Centre area southwest of Leduc.

Fred Grant followed his profession as a cook for many years, returning periodically to complete his residence duties on the homestead. Finally, in 1911, he married a pioneer school teacher, Emily Rose Brown, and remained on the homestead continually afterwards until 1917, when they purchased the SW 36-49-2 W5, where they made their home for the rest of their lives.

In 1926, Fred Grant purchased a small portable sawmill. He cut lumber for himself, as well as doing custom work from Wilton Park to the Breton and Carnwood areas.

Our mother, Emily Rose Grant, passed away in 1952 at the age of 80 years.

Dad, Fred Grant, passed on in 1970 at 89 years of age leaving 2 sons, William Edwin Grant and Robert Malcolm Grant, who still reside in the district.

Edwin married Irene Artindale of Sunnybrook. Their family consisted of 7 girls, Lynne, Mable, Rose, Janet, Sandra, Florence and Donnalee.

Robert married Mrs. Ann Leeder (nee Hugget). He has 2 step-children, Fred Leeder and Betty Ollenberg (nee Leeder).

A MEMORABLE JOURNEY

by Edwin Grant

During the early part of July 1922, my Father and I

travelled to Edmonton for the purpose of eye examinations and having "glasses" fitted to that knob on the top end of me, the one that had eyes, ears, nose and a handful or two of hair attached.

To begin this journey and, I presume, to finance same, required some work on the part of my dad in constructing a stock rack on our wagon, with which we were to transport 2 milk cows to be sold in the city.

The day of departure arrived with the cows successfully loaded and myself and Dad seated on a board seat on top of this structure. With a flick of the lines and a word from Dad, the horses started and we were on our way. After a few mudholes, one between our place and "McDougal's Corner", another in front of John Martin's, and then the big "Muskeg", we finally arrived at the Weed Creek, where we watered the horses and carried water to the cows in the wagon. After resting the horses for about half an hour, we continued on to Alex Philip's, where we stopped for dinner. After resting and feeding the horses we continued. The road was dry so we made good time. We stopped for the night at Bill Beidermans, 4 miles west of Leduc and 1 mile north. The next day at noon found us at old friends of Dad's, the Jim Grove family of the west Ellerslie district. From there we continued north until we turned east at the round barn (Hendersons), at Rabbit Hill. We camped for supper and to rest the horses beside the bridge on Whitemud Creek, just a few hundred yards south of where the Freeway crosses it today. After a half hour rest for the horses, we went on into the city, putting up our horses and the cows in Jim Smith's (an old homestead neighbor of Dad's) barn where the cows were sold the next day to a neighbor of Smiths.

After the cows were disposed of, Dad took me to the "north side" where an eye specialist examined and fitted me for "specs".

We spent the rest of the day "doing" the Exhibition. I don't think there was a sideshow or ride that I missed. By 11 P.M. that night, I was a very tired 8 year old boy. The next day, we repeated the Exhibition bit, except our activities consisted of machinery exhibits, cattle, horse and hog exhibits, not very exciting to a small boy. I was fascinated by the large threshing machines and the huge tractors, some steam and some gasoline. I recall a Rumley oil pull and a Case steam tractor. There were many others, but a small boy's mind could only absorb a small part of them. These tractors were huffing and puffing and driving those huge threshing machines with all the belts and wheels whirling and rumbling (running slowly, of course, as this was for demonstration purposes).

I have no recollection of the return journey until about a mile from home. Some of the men working for Dad that summer burst out of the bush in full cowboy regalia, whooping and hollering and circling the wagon, and gave us an escort home. These "cowboys" were Al and Art Martin, Eric Connolly, Norman Horutko, Al and Eric in leather chaps, Art in black fur

chaps. Norman did not have chaps. They all had large cowboy hats and of course large silk handkerchiefs around the necks and all wore leather cuffs studded with nickel studs.

This was all standard cowboy wear in the early twenties.

The Martin family and Eric Connolly had come from Montana a year or two before and, of course, had brought their cowboy regalia with them from their ranch.

A PIONEER TEACHER EMILY ROSE GRANT (NEE BROWN)

By Edwin Grant

Born a few miles north of Bowmanville, Ont., Emily Rose Grant went to high school in Oshawa, Ont., normal school (teachers training) in Toronto, Ont., where she taught school for 10 years before coming to Alberta. This move was due to her Doctor's advice to move to a higher, drier climate.

She had written to the Dept. of Education in Edmonton regarding a teaching position. She received a letter by return mail to come immediately as there was a school waiting for her. This was the Fredricksheim school a few miles SE of Leduc. She was met in Leduc by one of the school board members, Mr. Hammer, who drove her out to Fredriksheim, where she boarded at the August Falkenberg home.

This was quite a change for a young woman coming from a city like Toronto, as many of the children could not speak English, this being a predominately German settlement. However, with the help of a German/English dictionary and the help of Mrs. Falkenberg, she learned enough German to help with her teaching, as well as socially in the district.

An incident she often related was about the day she and a lady from the district were driving to a neighbor's house. This lady shocked her by swearing in English at the horse. Mother remonstrated with her. She returned with, "Oh, that's not so bad". Mother repeated what she had said in German, which in turn shocked the lady. They often laughed about this afterwards.

In 1908, the Telfordville school was built on the NE 20-49-1 W5. Miss Brown applied for the teacher's position and became the first teacher in the school. She taught here continually until her marriage to Fred Grant in 1911. About 1915, teachers were very scarce, so she taught for 1 or 2 terms.

In 1917, my brother, Robert, was born. Several months later, the school board, being unable to obtain a teacher, again requested that she take the school. She taught from that time until about 1927 when she finally gave up teaching.

During the early years, she rode on horseback, drove horses and a Democrat, and if the trails were too muddy and soft, rode an ox occasionally. She often

drove a team of oxen and wagon, as the oxen were slow and steady, where the horses would get excited and get their feet entangled in the willow and tree roots in the mudholes.

JAMES GRANT

as related by Mr. Grant

I was born in Country Down in Northern Ireland, near Belfast, on February 17, 1898. I attended school there until I was 14 years of age. At that time you only went to school till you were 14. I worked for 3 years on the Belfast Police Force and in March of 1925 immigrated to Canada.

When I left Ireland, the weather was warm and the crops were up. I arrived in Canada, at Montreal after a 10 day boat trip, to find the weather cold and lots of snow. When I found out how cold it was I almost decided to go back to Ireland. We never had to wear heavy underwear there. I boarded a train coming west and when it made it's stops along the way I would get off and buy bread to eat, as there were no dining cars on my train. After a 7 day trip I arrived in Edmonton.

When I arrived at the Immigration Office in Edmonton, Angus MacDougal and Bill Green were there looking for farm hands. Bill Green hired me and I worked for him for 2 years and for Bill Coughlin for 4 years.

In 1929 I bought the farm from Bill Green and it only had 20 acres cleared. I hired Eddy Roth and Del Cooper to clear another 40 acres for me. I started out with 2 colts and broke them myself. Things were pretty tough and I lived on hot cakes, rabbits and prairie chickens for the first 2 years. At that time Billy Breton had a small store along with the Post Office in Telfordville but he carried very little stock, so I had to go for groceries to a store in Calmar. I can remember times that I went to Calmar when my horses were up to their knees in mud.

I got my first crop off in 1930 but unfortunately it wasn't very good. I farmed there until 1967 when I sold my farm to Alex Patrick and I retired, moving to Thorsby, where I still reside.

MALCOLM AND ROY GRANT

by Edwin Grant (nephew)

In the spring of 1904, about 8 o'clock one morning, Fred Grant was pleasantly surprised by his two brothers coming to his homestead shack on the Strawberry Creek. They had walked in from Leduc during the night.

They filed on the E ½ 10-50-2 W5 where they made their home for many years. In 1908, they had a small threshing machine shipped in from Eastern Canada. This little machine, not much larger than a large fanning mill, threshed many bushels of grain

throughout the area west of the Weed Creek, from the Saskatchewan River to Pigeon Lake, as the records of threshing for the years 1910 to 1913 show. These records show not only many pioneer names that are gone from the district, but also many of the families that are still in the area.

These lists are from their threshing accounts of 1910, 1911, and 1912, 1913.

Roy and Mac did not marry, but carried on their farming as a partnership. Roy developed a poultry business and Mac looked after the cattle.

In 1926, Roy built quite a large poultry house and had R.O.P. Leghorns. He also operated a small hatchery, selling day-old chicks to customers from Eastern Saskatchewan to the Fraser Valley in B.C., as well as locally. He shipped R.O.P. hatching eggs as far east as Toronto.

Roy passed away in 1952, at the age of 65, while still on the farm.

Mac died in 1963, age 91, after being retired in Thorsby for five years.



Grant brothers threshing machine, purchased in 1911. L. to R. Roy by wagon wheel, Mrs. Monson, Nina Kelto, Frank Monson, Emil Kelto on

(Note: The following pages are the Grant Bros. Threshing Accounts.)

1911 List of Threshing Accounts From Grant Bros. Custom Threshing

John Radowits \$	9.50
Gabriel Sych\$	7.50
Fred Kuzio\$	14.00
Mike Sych\$	4.00
Wm. Yawney \$	8.50
John Zingel \$	8.50
Nick Danaka \$	13.50
Mike Poholka \$	5.50
Alex Mucha\$	8.00
John Pawlick\$	4.00
? Sharko \$	4.00
Nick Babiak\$	8.50
Pete Adamic \$	4.00

1914 Threshing Accounts (Grant Bros.)

Vic Legas

E. Trollope	\$	5.75
J. Kelton	\$	5.00
J. Grindy	\$	5.00
Wm. Littleproud	\$	5.75
L. and M. Johnson	\$	10.50
J.H. and F.J. Van Alstyne	\$	20.70
F.M. Grant	\$	20.00
A. Tompson	\$	14.50
A. McDougall	\$	21.50
Geo. McFarquhuar	\$	5.00
D. McDonald	\$	9.75
Aric (Aron) Johnson	\$	5.75
Fred Yanish	\$	9.75
Mike Senio	\$	13.00
Mike Mudry	\$	9.00
Joseph Sendziak	\$	17.50
John Padwell	\$	7.50
John Radwell Sam Quahella	\$	7.50
Fred Lichacz	\$	10.50
John Dedio	\$	10.50
Antony Dedio	\$	12.50
	\$	8.50
Arciszewski	\$	8.50
John Babiak	\$	9.50
John Meleshko	\$	20.00
Gabriel Sych	\$	22.00
Fred Kuzio	\$	10.50
Bill Dublanko	\$	11.25
Esca Peters	\$	1.25
Joe Watts	\$	1.25
Anawn	Ф \$	9.25
John Dool	\$	7.25
Mikula	\$	5.50
Mike Bedry	\$	
Mike Sych	\$	18.00 11.25
Alex Fedina	\$	37.00
John Zingel		18.50
Wm. Yawney	\$	8.50
Arthur Blonarowicz	\$ \$	12.40
Alex Fedor		
Swede	11	6.00
Faraschuk	\$	8.75 15.50
Andrew Pacholka	\$	- / - / -
Nick Harrish	\$	6.95
Steinke	\$	13.75
John Pawlick	\$	7.75
Alex Mucha	\$	21.50
George Medisky	\$	15.50
J. Daved	\$	18.00

JACOB AND EVA (WURBAN) GRITZFELDT FAMILY

by Millie Kelsey

Eva married Jacob (Jac) Gritzfeldt of Strasbourg, Saskatchewan, on Nov. 3 1950. They live on the Gritzfeldt family farm, also in Strasbourg.

They have 2 daughters; Violet born April 8, 1947, and Joyce born April 2, 1953. They have a son, Ernie, born Dec. 9, 1956.



Jac and Eva Gritzfeldt, 25th Anniversary.

Violet and her son Keith live in Calgary. Joyce married Dan Flavel and they have 2 daughters and a son. Dan and Joyce are farming Dan's father's home place in Saskatchewan. Ernie is farming with his Dad.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN HORUTKO

By Mary Cielinski

Mr. and Mrs. John Horutko and one son Norman immigrated to Canada in April 1904 from Miekisz Nowy, district; Jaroslaw county, Galicia (now Poland).

With them came Mr. and Mrs. John Kowal, father and step-mother of Anna Horutko, and Andrew and wife Hazel — brother and sister-in-law of Anna. They first landed in Montreal; from there they came to Edmonton and were united with Anna's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sekora of the Calmar district. Mr. and Mrs. John Kowal made their home in the Spedden area, where they had known some friends. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kowal made their home in Saskatchewan.

After a short stay at the Sekora home, Father decided to look for a farm. With the help of Mr. Adamic, he purchased a quarter of land 3 miles west and ½ mile north of what is now Thorsby. They



Mr. and Mrs. John Horutko beside their home.



Norman Horutko with his two oldest children. Edith and Jack.

carried with them only what was useful on the farm; flail, sickle, axe, some linen, a few dishes and their personal belongings, and a few dollars in the pocket.

They should have been advised to have at least \$100.00 capital to start any kind of farming. They would be in Canada for months before they could achieve an income off the farm. They came only with their 10 fingers. This farm (NE 18-49-1-W5) was previously owned by Mr. Mellick. Father bought a cow and the early settlers gave them some chickens. Now Father started to farm with an axe, grub hoe, scythe, a flail and 10 fingers.

Norman attended Telfordville School. His name was on the first registration list in that school. There was no store close by, so they had to go to Leduc for their household supplies. They carried it home on their backs through many miles of sloughs and bush. The trip took 4 days.

Some of the early settlers in that area were: Mellick, Turgeon, Yakimac, Protski and Yanish. In later years they moved and made their homes elsewhere.

Father lived on this farm for 10 years and got nowhere. They lost the cow by milk fever and could not afford another one, so Father decided to give up farming and look for work. Jobs were scarce and pay was small.

They moved to Camrose and he obtained a job with the C.P.R. there. They lived there for 9 years. During this time there were 4 children born — Katie, Joe, Mary and Annie.

Father had a love for the farm. Again he moved west of what is now Thorsby and purchased a quarter of land 3 miles west, now it was the SE quarter 18-49-1 W5. He moved the family to a rented house until he had the house built on this farm. After a year the new house was completed and the family moved in.

When he was building the barn someone stole his saw. Now he had to get another saw which meant a long trip. When we were moving to our new house, Father made a trail through the bush because the pea-vine grass and brush was so thick and tall. Instead of crating the 3 pigs and 4 or 5 chickens, we chased them down this trail.

Father started to clear land with a grub hoe and an axe. He broke it with horses and a walking plow. In later years he hired a tractor for breaking. The only tractor in the community was owned by Mike Radowitz. Father seeded this land by throwing seed on top and had a bumper crop in the fall. He cut it with a scythe, threshed it with a flail, and the wind did the fanning.

To better the living, Father went west to get tamarack posts. One day he brought them home, the next day he would take them to Leduc. It was so cold, Father had to walk alongside the load to keep warm, and the horses had 6" icicles on their nostrils when they reached their destination.

In those days, the farmers dug water wells by hand

measuring 4' x 4' to the depth where they got water. They had wooden cribbing for walls. Father dug one well and experienced gas and had to discontinue

digging.

The children all attended Telfordville School. It was a $2\frac{1}{2}$ mile walk. In winter some parts of the road were drifted shut. In the spring time there was water, making it difficult to cross. The winters were so cold we had to stop at the home of Alton Canfield to warm ourselves. The best part of school days were Christmas concerts. For the month of December we were busy studying our parts in the play or learning Christmas carols. The day of the concert we decorated the school and practised all day. The teacher gave a gift to each student. The students also exchanged names. After the concerts, apples were passed out and all who attended got 2 or more. Everyone went home happy. Some walked home in the bright crisp night and others drove home. All we heard were sleigh bells.

As the children grew up, Father had more help but not for too long. The time came when the girls started to leave home to make their own homes and raise families.



Katie, Joe, Mary and Annie Horutko.

In 1932 Katie got married to Tom Ostapchuk. They raised a nice family of 9 children, all residing in Edmonton.

In 1939 Mary married Anthony Cielinski and had a family of 2 girls, Elizabeth and Jeannie.

In 1943 Annie married Fred Fedan and had a family of 2 boys, Jack and Sergius, both in Edmonton.

Joe helped at home a little longer and he got married in 1948.

Father failed in health and passed away December 24, 1948. Mother lived to a ripe age of 85 until her death in 1963.

Norman passed away on September 3, 1976 at the age of 74. He resided in Lacombe.

This leaves the younger generations to struggle on.

WALTER AND TERESA HOSHOWSKI

by their son William

My mom and dad arrived in Canada on Aug. 6, 1930 from Austria with 4 children; myself (William),



Walter Sr. and Theresa Hoshowski. R. to L. Bill, Ted, Helen and Walter Jr.

Walter Jr., Ted, and Helen.

My dad was born on July 10, 1891 and my mother was born on July 8, 1896, both in the village of Pidbereze, Galicia, Austria. Walter and Teresa (nee Ilinsky) were married on Feb. 18, 1919.

My Dad served in W.W.I and was wounded at the Russian front. In Austria, my parents owned land and Dad operated a flour mill which was sold when we decided to come to Canada, since Dad had a sister and brother-in-law in the U.S.A.

We travelled by train and ship to Halifax and by train again to Edmonton. The journey lasted about 2 months. We children were sea-sick most of the journey. Finally we arrived at the CPR station in Edmonton. Since we spoke no English and didn't know anyone, it was very hard to communicate. A man at the station noticed that we were foreigners, so came and spoke to Dad. His name was Mr. Glubish. We rode on the back of a farm truck to the Glubish farm at Calmar where we stayed for 2 weeks, helping with farm chores and harvesting. Later, we moved to a farm home located 1 mile east of Calmar (which was the Mike Mellick Sr. house), where we lived until after Christmas

After this, Rudolph Bittner, who had a farm in the Fruitland district, took us in. Dad worked for him and other farmers - cutting firewood, and logging in winter, helping to clear land by grubhoe and axe, stooking and threshing in the fall. My brother, Walter Jr., and I had started school at Fruitland where our teacher was Miss Watson. We walked 6 miles to school. In winter we would get a ride with some of the other children in a sleigh pulled by 1 horse. It was hard as we didn't speak English. Later we settled on a farm owned by Mike Bittner. We lived there for several years. By that time Dad had earned some money and we bought 1 cow, a team of horses, and raised some



William and Walter Jr. in 1946 on the seed drill.

chickens. Mom sewed all our clothes by hand.

My brother Russell was born on April 19, 1932 at the Bittner farm home. My dad's sister from the U.S.A. had come to visit us for the first time that year. I remember that happy day. On Sept. 13, 1933 brother Joe was born.

In 1935, my parents purchased a quarter section of land (NE 32-49-2-W5), which was located 3 miles west of Telfordville, from a Mr. Floden. Finally, we had a farm of our own. The first crop that we seeded (with the help of a neighbor) was late in the spring as the land was very wet. An early frost came in the fall, and there was no grain, just some straw. Dad applied for relief. The municipality gave him \$10 a month, for which Dad had to go and brush a road allowance in exchange for the money. Later on, Dad bought some more farm machinery and another team of horses. By now, Walter Jr. and I were able to help with the work. I also went out to help with the threshing and stooking, and brushing on the roads. The hours were long - 5:30

a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Their first water well was dug by hand. A few neighbors helped pull the dirt out with a rope and pail while others dug down in the well with a shovel. My parents, with all us children (bundled warm in a horse-drawn sleigh) would drive 13 miles to Thorsby to attend Church service in winter. At times, the weather was quite stormy, with snow. We boys would run behind the sleigh to keep warm. It was fun in those days. In summer, we would ride in a buggy.

In 1938, my brother Walter Jr. went to live with my aunt and uncle (Dad's sister) in the U.S.A. There

he finished his schooling.

In 1954, my parents built a modern home, where they had electricity and electric appliances, phone and a coal furnace. Then, in the fall of 1963, they purchased a home and lot in Thorsby from Frank Dedio and retired from the farm. On Father's Day in June of 1969, a 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary dinner was held for Mom and Dad. Rev. Father Chimy celebrated Mass and gave them his blessing at the St. John's Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Thorsby.

On June 29, 1970, Mom and Dad, my wife and I, flew by Air Canada to Fox Lake, Illinois to visit my brother, Walter Jr., and his family. In 1946 he married Anne Nakutny and they have 2 sons, Walter and Andrew, and 1 grandson. They all live in Fox Lake, Illinois where Walter Jr. and wife Anne own and

operate a marina, cafe and tavern.

Unfortunately, Mom passed away on July 1, 1971 at the age of 74 years. Dad continued to live in Thorsby for another 4 years and was blessed to see a great-grandson born. Illness overtook him and after living several months with me, he was taken to Blunt's Nursing Home in Leduc, where he passed away on Aug. 3, 1975 at the age of 84 years. Both Mom and Dad were active in their church and had 18 grandchildren.

Ted was born Aug. 6, 1927 in Austria. He took his schooling at Port View. He married Betty Herman from Breton in July, 1955. They have 3 children - Caroline, Jerry and Judy. Ted passed away Jan. 31, 1965. Betty has 1 grandson, and presently lives in



Aerial view of Hoshowski farmstead near St. Francis.

Devon.

Helen was born on May 20, 1929 in Austria. She took her schooling at Port View, Rainier, and highschool in Thorsby. She taught school for 1 year at Alder Flats. She was married to Marshall Forchuk in 1950. They had 5 children - Victoria, Gregory, Kathy, Laurie, and Kevin. Helen has 3 grandchildren and presently lives in Leduc.

Russel was born in Canada. He took his schooling at Port View. He married Mary Bartoszko on Apr. 24, 1963. His wife, Mary, came to Canada Nov. 21, 1962 from Wietlin, Poland. They had 4 children; Adam, born Feb. 15, 1964, Jeanne, born Jan. 21, 1968, Teddy, born Feb. 5, 1973, and Maryann born Nov. 2, 1975. Daughter Jeanne died in a house fire at Sangudo on Mar. 3, 1972. Russel and his family presently reside on the SE 6-50-2 W5 near St. Francis.

Joe was born in Canada and took his schooling at Port View, and high school at Thorsby, where he graduated. He married Elizabeth Sobon on July 26, 1960 and they have 3 sons; Darrell, Brian and Jody. They own Mom and Dad's farm, but are presently living at St. Francis where Joe operates a lumber yard.

WILLIAM AND STELLA HOSHOWSKI

by William

I was born on November 30, 1920 in Austria. I came to Canada with my parents and brothers and sister at the age of 10 years. I attended school at Fruitland for 3 years where my teacher was Miss Watson. I stayed at home helping my parents with the farm work until I got married. In 1945, I went to work at Gainers' Packing Plant in Edmonton.

In 1946, I purchased the SE 1-50-2-W5 from Robert Peters and, on Nov. 19, 1947, married Stella Paskowski of Sunnybrook, oldest daughter of Samuel and Katie Paskowski. Stella was born on Jan. 8, 1930 in Edmonton. She received all her schooling at the Dniester School. In the spring of 1948, we moved to our farm at Telfordville with a team of horses and buggy. Our house was a 12 x 18 ft., two small room



William and Stella Hoshowskis 25th Anniversary. L. to R. John Chura, Russell Hoshowski, Fred Paskowski, Helen (Wm's. sister)

with a wood stove, coal oil lamps and lantern, and we had a battery operated radio, which was a wedding gift. Our barn was built from round logs. Mud plaster was made to fill the cracks, and it had a straw roof.

In April of 1948, there was a flood and roads were washed out. To get to Telfordville store, we had to cross the creek at Denschikoffs with horses and buggy. One day, while crossing the creek, we almost drowned as the buggy filled with water and the horses didn't want to cross and got tangled in their harnesses. It seemed like the more the people drove through the same place, the more the creek bottom must have washed out. But, somehow, when I hollered to the horses to go, they made one big leap for the bank, and we got out safely. Unfortunately, our dog drowned as the current was too swift for him to swim.

When the roads were repaired, we brought a cow from my parent's and 2 cows, a calf and 10 chickens from my wife's parents.

When winter came with the first snowfall and wind, we would get drifted in very badly, as there was no high grade road to our farm. So Mike Mellick, our neighbor, and I would hitch 4 horses to a homemade snowplow, (made from strong planks and iron) and open a road across the fields so we could get to the store for groceries and mail, etc. Our house would get very cold in winter so we had to take turns staying up at nights to keep putting wood in the stove to have the house warm. We couldn't afford to buy coal. The water in the pail would freeze. We had to haul our water with cans from our neighbor for 3 years as we had no well. We would take our horses and cows down to Strawberry Creek for water. In winter, we melted snow for them.

Percy Sandstrom drilled our first well, only 60 feet deep, with lots of soft water. The drilling and pipes and hand pump cost us \$150 Boy, was it ever great to have our own water well!

As our income was very small, I had to go out working; picking roots, stooking and hauling bundles at threshing time. We received \$5 every 2 weeks for a can of cream. This was our grocery money and we would always try and save a 50¢ piece from this, so we could both go to see a show once a month at the Strawbery Hall, where John R. Powlik would come with his movie projector. This was an outing that we really looked forward to.

In winter, my wife and I cut logs by hand with a crosscut saw and skidded them out of the bush with horses onto a pile. By spring, we would have enough logs cut. Bob Grant, who owned a saw mill, was hired to saw the logs into lumber. I would work for Bob so as to be able to pay to have my lumber sawed. We did some of our own land clearing by hand using a grubhoe and saw and horses to pull down the big trees. We broke 10 acres of land with 4 horses and a breaking plow. As our bush was very heavy with big trees, we hired a brushcutter to clear more land and do the breaking for us.

In May of 1949, our wee daughter Jeanette was

born, but sad to say, she died at birth. Two years later, on March 30, 1951 a son, Dennis, was born. That year we bought our first Studebaker half-ton truck. This was the first vehicle Stella learned to drive.

In 1953 we bought our first tractor, a John Deere, on steel wheels. Later on, we traded it for a W30 McCormick Deering. On Oct. 21, 1953 a son, Harvey, was born. In 1956, after spring work, I went to Lodgepole until fall for an oil lease clearing company.

In the spring of 1962, we were able to build a new barn with the help of Stella's great-uncle Jack Schurek, a carpenter. We had increased our herd of milk cows, and several years later we went into a dairy operation shipping milk to the Dairy Pool in Thorsby. We also raised hogs. In the fall of 1967 and 1968, I went to work in Edmonton at the Quesnell Bridge construction, while Stella and the boys farmed.

We brought in Calgary Power in 1969, and bought a television set.

As we were renting land from other people for 8 years, it became tiring moving machinery back and forth, and on Nov. 1, 1970 we purchased the NE 1-50-2-W5 from John Hier and the following year, Dec. 1971, we bought a larger house and had it moved to our farm.

On Nov. 19, 1972 we celebrated our 25th Silver Wedding Anniversary. In Nov. 1974 we drilled another well, 70 feet deep, with lots of water.

In the spring of 1975, we bought NW 1-50-2 W5 and SW 12-50-2 W5 from Walter Brewster where our son, Dennis, farms. Dennis took his schooling at Avon Moor and Thorsby. Harvey took all his schooling in Thorsby where he graduated in 1974. He went on to NAIT in Edmonton where he received his license as a journeyman welder. He married Margitta Lueck from Edmonton on July 9, 1977. They have a daughter, Jeanette, and are living in a mobile home on the same yard with us, helping with farming.

Stella and I are both happy to be enjoying our little granddaughter.



Wedding picture of Harvey and Margitta Hoshowski, July 1977 with bestman Dennis Hoshowski and parents Stella & Bill.

We are still farming and both take an active part in our church and community. At present Stella is on the executive of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League, and I am an executive on the Church Board. God has been kind to us and our children and we are blessed with good health and happiness.

Time has a way of passing and as I am finishing writing this history, today, to think that on Nov. 19, 1978, Stella and I will have been married 31 years.

THE TOM JABLONSKI FAMILY

by Vincent, Alma and Ernest Jablonski

Thomas Peter Jablonski, the son of an immigrant Polish coal miner, was born in 1878 in Braidwood, Illinois — a small mining town. After he and his family moved to Ivanhoe, Minnesota, he married Anastasia Tykwinski, a local farmer's daughter, in 1899. For 14 years, they lived in Ivanhoe, where Genevieve, Marcella, Vincent, Emily, Mary, Harry and Gertrude



Mr. & Mrs. Tom Jablonski.

were born. The prospect of supporting a family of 7 on their small farm and the lure of free homesteads in Western Canada prompted Tom to move.

They moved to a homestead 7½ miles northwest of Empress, Alberta in 1913. At Empress, Rose and Roman were born. The family also suffered the loss of their three-year-old son, Harry, due to illness. In 1925, after 12 years of intermittent crop failures due to drought and the dismal monotony of the treeless miles of prairie, Tom and his son-in-law Bert Kluczny (Marcell's husband), again began the search for a more promising site on which to establish their homes.

A Government employee at Empress, by the name of Adams, had urged Tom to sell and move to the Edmonton area as far back as 1915. With this thought in mind, the 2 men left for Edmonton in search of farmland near Edmonton. However, when they reached Edmonton and located Adams, he informed them that all the good land that had been available in 1915-16 had since been taken. He did advise them to go to Leduc and inquire at Charlie Carrol's, a CPR land and real estate agent.

Mr. Carrol directed Tom's attention to the $N\frac{1}{2}$ 27-49-1-W5. This place had been taken up by Jim

Rough and Alec Riddock, but a fire had destroyed the buildings, and with little land cleared, the two decided to abandon the place. The farm was completely fenced and it did have a well. Tom contracted this half from the CPR and on October 23, 1925, he and his wife Anastasia, Vincent, Emily, Mary, Gertrude, Rose, and Roman landed in Leduc. Next morning it snowed with severely cold weather to follow, which froze all the vegetables that the family had brought with them. This type of weather also posed a real problem in finding feed for the livestock that was brought along. They moved to the Telfordville district where they rented the Allio place which was owned by Dougal Macdonald. The men set to work to build a small five-room shack made of lumber covered with tarpaper on their newly contracted land. A few days before Christmas of 1925, the family moved to their new tarpapered home.

After having lived most of their lives in prairie regions, the older members of the family had serious apprehensions as to how the seemingly endless legions of trees would ever be cleared to make way for the growing of crops. When the mild seasons arrived the family set to work at clearing and breaking the land with all members contributing according to their ability. Slowly the land was wrested from its burden of bush and the family began to prosper. In 1934, a proper new house was built by Gertrude's husband, Stanley Krawiec, of hand-hewn logs. The house, being of good size for those times, was the scene of many gatherings and parties enjoyed by all.

Since Tom Jablonski was very interested in horticulture, he made the farmyard a place of beauty by planting many trees and shrubs, flowers, and fruit trees. Because of his interest along these lines, he did some work with the Government in trying out different plants for hardiness in the area.

His activities in the community included serving 2 terms on the Telfordville School Board at which 3 of his younger children attended. He also was instrumental in arranging for the N.A.D.P. to take over the cheese factory in Thorsby when its owner ran into management difficulties. The Thorsby Agricultural Fair and the Farmers' Union Local in Thorsby



Back Row: L. to R. Roseline Buckus, Olive Jablonski, Mrs. Emily Naprawa, John Naprawa, Raymond Jablonski, Ernie Naprawa, Vince Jablonski, Ernest Jablonski. Boy on right front, Eddie Naprawa.

held his keen interest and he had served on the boards of both organizations. The establishment of the Roman Catholic Parish (Our Lady of Victory) in Thorsby, which he and other members worked at, was especially dear to him. He, along with the children that were left at home, sang in the first choir, and for many years after.

To help establish the farm, Tom worked as a grain buyer for the Alberta Wheat Pool in Chipman and both in Thorsby and Breton when the railroad first came through.

Tom took a less active part in farming the last few years when his health began to fail. Although he bought a lot and built a house in Thorsby in which he planned to retire with his wife Anastasia, he lived on the farm until his death on April 12, 1948, followed almost 14 months later by the death of his loving wife, Anastasia, on June 4, 1949. They are both laid to rest in the Thorsby cemetery.

THE BERNARD JOHNSON FAMILY

by Dolores Johnson

Our story starts with our marriage on October 28, 1955. Bernard is the youngest son of Helmer and Emma Johnson and their history is covered in the Warburg "Golden Memories" book. I am the daughter of Algot and Hildur Pearson whose history appears elsewhere in this book.

Bernard and his brother, Freeman, bought this farm, \$9-50-2-W5 from their father in 1951. Freeman was married in 1953. When we planned to get married, Bernard and his brothers built a house for us. We moved in on November 11. It was a bitterly cold day. In fact, it was a terribly cold winter. The house was anything but finished and we almost froze to death, until we sheeted some of the walls with cardboard and closed off the rooms that we weren't using. Finally, it was quite comfortable and homey.

The following spring, we bought Freeman's and Lauretta's share of the farm, and they eventually bought her parents' farm after working out for a few years. That summer, we got hailed out, but we had a very good clover crop which helped to keep us on our feet.

Our first child, Ronald Hayden, was born December 28, 1956. When he was 6 months old he had a very serious operation. How relieved we were when we could bring him home again. We were blessed again when Kenneth Orren was born on February 2, 1959. We seemed to be doing well on the farm; we were able to purchase a new tractor and through the next few years were able to buy a few more pieces of machinery. We were both involved in various community efforts. We joined the Buford Vasa Lodge and are still members, as are our boys. We were on the Telfordville Hall Board and donated help whenever needed with the United Church, Bernard

sold shares for the Warburg Seed Cleaning Plant. I also led a 4-H sewing club for a year. That winter we also had a girl, Shirley Smith, stay with us to go to school. She is still like a daughter to us. I had to quit my 4-H club after one year as I was expecting our third child and was not well at all.

Our third little boy, Phillip Helmer, was born on February 9, 1964. We were able to brag about our very own "My Three Sons" when anyone talked about the T.V. show. The following winter we got involved in curling in Calmar. One night, Bernard's team got an '8-ender'. The team received many prizes and trophies for this.

Our one and only daughter, Linnea Marie, was born April 23, 1967. Everyone was delighted. We also finished paying for our farm that year. Now it was ours! What a good feeling that was!

Since then, the years have been good to us. We have built an addition to our home, and have become involved in 4-H again, this time in beef. We have had some nice holidays, many in Alberta, and a few in B.C. In 1970, we realized the dream of a lifetime when we visited Sweden, the land of our forefathers. Later that year, Phillip had a bout with spinal meningitis. After a long session in hospital, we are fortunate that the only side effect is one deaf ear.

Ronald and Kenneth have attended schools in both Genesee and Warburg. They have both graduated now and at present, Ronald is employed by Amoco at Anzac (Fort McMurray). Kenneth is in his second year of pre-veterinary medicine at the University of Alberta. Phillip is in grade 9 in Warburg Junior High, and Linnea is in grade 6 at Warburg Elementary.

We have a very busy household — we have lots of friends, and in our spare time we are involved in some project or other, so life is never dull. We don't know what the future holds, but we look forward eagerly.

THE KASNER STORY

by Mrs. Arthur Kasner

Reinhold and Alvina Kasner spent their early married years moving through many western states after emigrating from Germany. Later, with their ten children they settled in southern Alberta, near Lethbridge until 1950.

During a Seventh Day Adventist Camp meeting in College Heights they met Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Brod. The Brods told them of the rich farm land in the Thorsby district and about the Bentley farm in particular.

In the fall of 1950 Reinhold and his son Art bought the James Bentley farm and moved early the next spring, in time to seed. Mrs. Arthur Kasner followed with their three children: Lorraine, Donald and Edmund as soon as school was out in June. After months of anticipation the sight of their new



Front: Alvina and Reinhold Kasner. Rear: Art and Hilda Kasner.

surroundings exceeded every expectation. Gone were the dry brown wind-swept prairies which stretched for miles. Here was a lush growth of trees, knee high grass with saskatoon and chokecherry bushes everywhere! For the boys a tree fort was the order of the day - part of which is still standing. The men began building fences for the cattle which had arrived by rail. Lorraine



The former Bentley home.

spent many happy hours herding cattle on horseback that first summer until the fences were completed.

Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Kasner settled on the N.W. 28-49-1-W5 and Art and family built their home on the S.W. 33-49-1-W5 across the road.

Donald and Edmund walked the 2 miles to the little Telfordville school, stopping for Clarence and Barbara Bablitz on the way. Lorraine attended and graduated from Thorsby High School.

Richard and Lorraine Glunz purchased her grandfather's farm in the summer of 1959, while on a holiday from Toronto. Richard later transferred from C.B.C. Toronto to Edmonton enabling them to settle on their farm where they reside with their children: Daniel, Kimberly and John. Donald bought our farm and plans to farm it in the future. Edmund married Lois Wessman and is the director of Social Services at Loma Linda University Hospital in California. They have two sons, Kade and Kyle.

Mrs. Alvina Kasner passed away in Lethbridge in 1967 and her husband, Reinhold in 1971.

There have been many changes to the landscape over the years, with treed areas being cleared for farming. The front road no longer boasts of chokecherries, saskatoons and redwinged blackbirds, having been highgraded. We no longer have travellers in the middle of dark rainy nights needing a tractor to pull them up the steep hill. Fall isn't signalled by horsedrawn wagons thundering along the road at first light to begin threshing yet another farmer's crop. There was a mood of co-operation and good spirit seldom equalled today.

Saturday nights showed Thorsby to be a bustling community with stores open until 9 o'clock. Busy mothers shopped and visited while children and teens met and enjoyed whatever picture was playing. These events are part of the memories of poorer but very happy earlier years.

THE STORY OF A QUARTER SECTION N.E. 26-49-2-W5

By Una M. Kilgour

Strawberry Creek winds a sinuous path in a North Easterly direction from a point southwest of Warburg to the Saskatchewan River 7 miles north of Thorsby. Much of its banks lie between fertile valley flats bordered by tree covered hills and it is hard to believe that these hills, which today are densely covered in Aspens and colourful shrubs such as Pincherries, Chokecherries, Rose and Mooseberry, with stands of White Spruce growing tall and stately here and there, it was almost bare of trees 60 and 70 years ago.

OWNERS: Our family; myself, husband Jack, sons Clinton and Gregory and my husband's mother, Mrs. C.S. Kilgour moved from Leduc to the Telfordville district in July, 1971. We purchased this quarter section from Lawrence and Lillian Therriault who had lived here since 1952. They had purchased the property from Lillian's parents, Fred and Bertha Van Alstyne who had owned and farmed the land from



First Telfordville bridge built 1907, taken out by flood of 1908. Picture shows log jam, prior to it going down stream.

the early 1930's, although they lived on the adjoining quarter west. The land was in the hands of Dominion Lands for a time prior to the Van Alstyne's tenure. A family named Jones lived on the quarter for a year around 1920 and Leonard Branton paid the taxes on it 1 year, but let the place go when he saw the creek in flood the following spring. The original homesteader was Fred Grant who filed on the quarter in the spring of 1903. The log cabin built that year is still standing, but beyond reclamation. This small building not only housed the Grant family, but also hosted church services when a visiting minister or student minister



New bridge at Telfordville - 1910 replacing one lost in flood of 1908.

was in the district. The first council meetings of the area were held here prior to the formation of the Municipal District of Pioneer. The Grants held the quarter until 1917 when they moved to a quarter touching the southwest corner of this one.

ROADS: This quarter has always been associated with the roads leading west to Telfordville and beyond. Today the farm is crossed by several trails which link up the small fields, but which were in days gone by part of the main trail through the district. One road came down a steep hill just east of our quarter on the south side of Strawberry Creek, then out across to



New Telfordville bridge opened Oct. 1971.

the Grant homestead and on west to a ford over the creek. In 1907 a bridge was built over the ford, but it was a short-lived project, for it was washed away the following year an not replaced at that location. Just outside our east boundary the first post office in the district was built in 1904 by James Smith. Today hop vines still grow up the trees at this site, the only evidence of former habitation. Another trail cut into the property from the south, following a ravine, but this trail fell into disuse and is no longer visible. Eventually a road was made up the hill and down again just inside our south boundary. This followed the

south side o Strawberry Creek to Telfordville where a new bridge crossed the creek in 1910. This bridge was replaced in the same location at a later date and is till in use. Yet another road was built which entered the quarter from the south at the top of the hill; later the road was moved further west and just cut through the southwest corner of the quarter as it turned, to head towards the west. In 1971 the roads to the west were once more changed. A new bridge was built across Strawberry Creek, the approaches to it cutting off about 9 acres from this quarter on the southwest corner. From the bridge an entirely new road was built up the hill on the north side to join the road to St. Francis at the intersection north of the Telfordville United Church. In 1972 the road down the hill on the south side of the bridge was widened and realigned. This new road was needed to accommodate modern day traffic, but progress has its price and the Telfordville sports ground which straddled the boundaries of this and the Van Alstyne property on the north side of the creek was destroyed by the bridge approaches. This area had been a popular picnic and sports day location and had been the site of many happy community gatherings in times gone by.

Living beside a main road, at the bottom of a hill, has its hazards and has led to meeting a lot of people. During construction of the south hill rains made the grade very muddy and slippery and we were called on to rescue stuck vehicles and the occupants on several occasions, sometimes in he middle of the night. Icv roads are also too much for some drivers and our small tractor and the telephone have seen a lot of use, in the aid to stranded travellers. Cars choose "our" hill to get flat tires, run out of gas or develop other problems. To save wear and tear on the living room and to make it more convenient we have had a telephone installed in the back porch. In addition to the car troubles we get a steady stream of lost travellers. By the time they reach the "Y" at our gateway they are confused by the lack of signs, the angle of the road andthe often vague directions they have received from friends or relatives. Our County map has been replaced several times after getting do-eared from use.

Annually, the Strawberry Creek Snowmobile Club hosts a snowmobile trek up the creek from the river to Bruce Morden's farm. Cross country skiers too, are using the creek in winter. The creek is a constant source of fascination and frustration. Since it cuts our property in two, farming presents a problem if the creek is flooding after heavy rains or the beavers have built a dam below the ford. We are constantly at war with these energetic beasts. Early settlers did not have this problem as beavers were scarce then. Receding waters leave piles of silt behind, often across the ford entrances. Tees fall across the creek, sandbars shift. It is never the same from month to month. Even in winter, water will flood over the ice, making skidooing and skiing hazardous or impossible. When flooded areas freeze over evenly they create super skating rinks!

The highest flood waters remembered were in June, 1944 leaving silt in some of our fields. The highest waters we have seen were in June 1973.

A link with the past; My husband's grandfather, Joseph Kilgour came to Edmonton in the early 1900's and was in charge of the Excelsior Life Insurance office there. His youngest daughter, Verna, my husband's aunt married Norman Crishop who was the son of the Crishops who homesteaded northeast of this quarter and land now owned by the Richters. Not long after we moved here Aunt Verna and Norman's sister Cora, paid us a visit and had a look at the old homestead.

Mrs. Kilgour Sr. died in June 1977. Son Clinton now lives in Leduc with his wife and 2 boys. Gregory graduated from the Thorsby High School in 1976 and is now working at Vern Muth Sales in Thorsby.

GERHART (GARRY) AND LENA KIRCHNER

by Marlene Kobeluck

Garry was born, October 4 1924, in Germany. At the age of one and a half years, he came to Canada with his family. At the age of seven, he attended Strawberry School. After attending school, at sixteen, Garry was employed by Hugh Richardson as a truck driver. A year later he moved to Stony Plain and apprenticed as a mechanic at Fielhauder and Jones. There he met Lena Henkel and they were married Jan. 18, 1946 in the Lutheran Church at Stony Plain.



Garry and Lena Kirchner, Marlene and Barbara.

In Oct. 1946, Garry and Lena moved to Bruderheim. He was employed by H.D. Strong and Sons. The 17th of June, 1947 their first daughter, Barbara was born. In 1949, Garry went out on his own and rented from Mr. Nering and set up his own business. Feb. 2, 1951, a second daughter, Marlene,



Telfordville Motors, 1952, owned and operated by Garry and Bruno Kirchner.

was born to them.

In Oct. 1951, they moved to Telfordville and purchased a garage and house from Elmer Kruger. In partnership with his brother, Bruno, they set up a garage business, selling cars and trucks, and later taking on Cockshutt farm equipment.

In 1958, Garry purchased a garage and Cockshutt dealership on main street of Thorsby from Albert



Thorsby Motors, 1965.

Connolly. At that time he also brought the Ford dealership into Thorsby.

In 1964, Garry took ill and Lena, his wife, took over the operation of Thorsby Motors until Garry recovered from his illness. She remained working in the garage until the time of sale. Through their many years of service to Cockshutt, Ford, and Shell dealership, Garry and Lena have won awards and trips to different parts of the United States and Mexico.

Then a later year, Garry resigned from the Cockshutt dealership. After twenty years of service to the community, Garry sold his garage and Ford dealership to John and Chris Standring in Feb. 1978.

In his twenty years of business, Garry had apprenticed nine mechanics.

Garry and Lena's older daughter, Barbara, was married on June 1, 1974 to Bill Smith and they reside in Houston, Texas. Marlene, their other daughter, was

married July 30, 1971 to Sam Kobeluck. They live in Thorsby. Garry and Lena have two grandchildren. Pamela and Shelley Kobeluck.

ANDERS PETER KNUDSEN

by Martha Knudsen (January 1979)

Anders Peter Knudsen was born in Sjorring, Denmark on September 12, 1903. His father was Jens Knudsen of Sjorring, Denmark, mother Anna Cathrina Pedersen of Sperring, Denmark. The family were raised and lived in the Svindborg area of Denmark. There was a family of 12 living children: 7 boys and 5 girls.

He left home to work on a dairy farm when he was 10 years old. He worked fairly steady on farms around the area until he was 25 years old, when he decided he wanted to go to Canada.

He left Denmark February 27, 1929 on a small boat from Esbjerg, Denmark, and landed in London, where he stayed for 2 days, then by train from London to Liverpool. From Liverpool he left on a Cunard line boat, "The Antonia" for Halifax, Canada, arriving March 10, 1929. From there by train right to Ponoka, Alberta, arriving March 14, 1929.

He got work on a farm the day after arriving in Ponoka, and worked there for three months at 50 cents per day. After that he had a Danish friend working in a logging camp at Cowichan Lake on Vancouver Island, so he and his Danish friend left for Vancouver Island to work in a logging camp, at \$4.00 per day for 8 hours work. From that he paid \$15.00 per month for bed and \$1.20 per day for board. After a few months the rate was \$4.50 per day and later another wage increase to \$5.00 per day. He worked there for about 12 months, before the depression started and then there wasn't any sale for the lumber so the camp closed down. They returned to Vancouver by plane where they stayed for seven weeks without any chance of work of any kind.



Log house built by Anders Knudsen - about 1940.

Anders' friend and he returned by train to Calgary. There wasn't work around Calgary so they went by train to Regina, Sask. to work in the fields for the harvest. They worked pretty steady until Christmas. The wages were from \$3.00 to \$3.50 per fourteen hour day with board and room included.

He returned to Edmonton by train, and from there to Ponoka. He stayed with a farmer for 2 months and worked for room and board, before he got a steady job. He was never out of work after that even if the pay was \$15.00 per month until harvest time.

Then he got work on a farm for Joe Reed where he stayed for four years. While working there and burning brush piles he accidently got badly burned by using gas to start the fires when his gas can exploded spilling gas and flames over him. He spent three months and ten days in the Wetaskiwin hospital and he was still not healed. That happened on July 10, 1935 and he couldn't work again until the next year.

After that Anders worked for a man, who had 1/4 section of land near Bluffton, Alberta. He stayed there for six years, and worked the land for him in the



Skunk pelts - Anders Knudsen.

summer and trapped in the winter. He had his own horses, and a flock of chickens for eggs and meat. He trapped and shot rabbits for their skins at 8 cents each. He also got coyotes, skunks, squirrels and weasels.

He finally had an auction sale and sold his horses, chickens and other belongings that he had



Anders Knudsen on a root harrow.

accumulated. He then returned to Ponoka where he worked with a plasterer and at other odd jobs including working in the slaughter house. During his stay on the homestead he made picture frames as a hobby in his spare time.

In May 1948, he came to Thorsby to work for Martha on the farm, where he stayed until they were married in 1958. They had a honeymoon in Denmark to see his father whom he had not seen for thirty years and his brothers and sisters.

We sold the farm and bought a house in Thorsby to retire in, in 1965. Anders did a few odd jobs as night guard at the police station and caretaker of the Community Centre for five years. He then helped on the mail route for three years and then back as caretaker of the Community Centre for another five years. He is now past his 75th birthday but the hall board does not accept his resignation.

One of his hobbies was making fancy picture frames with small pieces of wood fitted together. Another hobby was making baskets of straw and binder or baler twine, big ones, small ones, strong enough to carry feed or potatoes, or egg baskets, for gathering eggs.

GEORGE & VIOLET KOBELUCK & FAMILY

as related by Violet

I was born and raised with 6 sisters and 3 brothers on a farm near Wilton Park. My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Workun have retired from that farm and are now living in Calmar. On September 15th, 1978, they celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary.

On November 2, 1946, I married George Kobeluck, who lived west of Thorsby and owned the quarter of land, S.W. 19-49-1-W5. The farm had a house on it but very few other buildings. Since we didn't have much to start farming with, George and I both went to Edmonton to work through the first winter, after we were married. George worked at Swift's Packing Plant for 37¢ an hour, and I got a job as



Our Wedding Day.

a waitress at the C.N.R. Station for \$15.00 a week. We rented one room in an apartment house for \$25.00 a month. The landlord and one other renter, Ernest Bilou, also had one room each in the same building.

We returned to our farm in the spring of 1947, but after our crop was completely hailed out on July 3rd of that year, we again went back to the city to find employment. This time George got a job piling lumber at Prudham's Lumber Yard for 47 cents an hour. I was a waitress at the Nu-Way Cafe for \$17.00 a week. We rented one room in a private home for \$35.00 a month. After working all winter, George managed to save \$300.00 to take home for putting in the crop in the spring of 1948.

We started farming with a team of horses, borrowing most of the machinery from George's brothers, Victor and Mike, who were also farming their land close by.

We were fortunate to have a bored well close by the house, so carrying in the water was only a task



Violet and her 500 Turkeys.

when the well froze up each winter and the ice had to be chiseled and broken away. We had bush close by, with enough wood to keep the fires going all winter, however, not always warm enough except for the room the stove was in. George would go to Strawberry Creek and dig up some coal where everyone could go and do the same.

In the next couple of years we progressed to buying our first steel-wheeled tractor. We had a wagon, a few milk cows which were milked beside the house, several hogs and a few chickens which provided us with eggs and meat.

Several years later, things seemed to be getting better and farming easier. Water was piped in, natural gas and power were put in and bigger and better machinery was bought. We rented two more quarters of land and worked it with an air-conditioned tractor which we bought. Another quarter of land, kitty-corner from our home place was purchased from Alfred Pearson.

In 1958, we were blessed with a chosen son, Gordon. He attended Thorsby School and since graduation in 1977, has been working out on his own. We are fortunate that his work is close by and we can enjoy his weekend visits.

In 1960, our family was happy to have an addition. This time we chose a sister for Gordon. Valerie also attended Thorsby School from Grades 1 to 12 graduating in 1978. After spending the summer at home, working in a local store, she has moved to Edmonton to attend N.A.I.T. where she is taking a legal secretarial course.

Both Valerie and Gordon were still in high school when we decided to sell the farms and build a home in Thorsby. This was a big decision for all of us, considering both George and I were raised on a farm. But due to George's ill health, we decided selling would be for the better.

In January of 1976, we sold the farm to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hrychuk, who have recently resold it. We moved into our new home in Thorsby in a new sub-division in the west end of town.

Looking back through our years of hardships, it is a relief and a pleasure to be able to reminisce about them and to now enjoy an easier and a happier life.

MICHAEL (MIKE) KOBELUCK

(1902 - 1970)

by son Laurence Kobeluk

Mike was born December 4, 1902 in Miekisz Stary, East Galacia (Poland), and arrived in Canada at the age of 3, with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Kobeluck. They settled in the Dniester-Sunnybrook district, south-west of Thorsby. He was the eldest of a family of 10. As much time was spent clearing, grubbing, root and rock picking the virgin land, it was very difficult to obtain his 2 years of formal education.



Mike Kobeluck Family - 1952. L. to R. Laurence, Mike, Katie, Frances, Victoria in front.

In his late teens and early twenties Mike spent some time working on a railroad section crew in the Rocky Mountain region, and obtained enough money to buy the N.W. 18-49-1-W5, west of Thorsby.

After moving to his farm, he married the former Catherine Lickacz, eldest of a family of 13, on November 26, 1928. Catherine was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lickacz, also one of the early pioneer settlers in the Dniester-Sunnybrook district. Catherine received a grade 8 education at Dniester School, but this too, as in Mike's case, was hampered by many hard years of work on her parent's farm. As roads were few and far between, only bush trails were



Francis & Laurence Kobeluck -1940 taken as they were on their way to Telfordville School, with so-called lard pail for a lunch kit.

accessible to schools. Money was very scarce, and only light clothing was worn in winter. The teacher was usually the janitor, and it was an everyday occurrence to have your bucket of lunch (which was an old lard pail) to be frozen in the cloak room.

Speaking of few roads - neighbors usually cut across each other's fields in their horse drawn buggies and wagons, to their destinations. Also speaking of scarce money, in the 1930's cattle sold for \$7 a head, pigs for \$3 a head, eggs for \$¢ a dozen, and wheat for 18¢ per bushel. Most of the grain sold was used to pay the threshing machine and crew, and prior to elevators being built in Thorsby, the grain was hauled to Leduc by horse drawn wagon, where supplies were also purchased. They bought their first car in 1944, and first tractor in 1951.

As only 12 acres were cleared when Mike and Catherine settled on their farm, many hard years were

spent clearing, grubbing and root picking while bringing up a family. The original house still stands on the farmyard, and new buildings were built with lumber sawed in the Thorsby and Sunnybrook area. In Thorsby the sawmill was owned by Fred Mudry, and was situated immediately west of the present Mudry Lumber Yard. The Lickacz family also had a sawmill situated on their farm, and Mike spent many years sawing lumber at these 2 locations. Mike also spent some winters in the Strawberry Creek, north of Sunnybrook, mining coal out of the banks for his fuel.

Mike was a school trustee for a number of years at the Telfordville School and was a long time member of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Thorsby. He helped in the construction of the present church.

Mike and Catherine were blessed with 3 children (2 daughters and 1 son). Frances was born December 10, 1929 and obtained her education at Telfordville. After working for a number of years, she married Edward Gwozdz of Genesee in 1951. They have 1 son, Gerry, and live on a farm near the proposed Genesee Power Plant. Laurence was born May 29, 1932 and received his education at Telfordville and Thorsby schools. He worked on various engineerig crews, and married the former Patricia Dietrich of Breton on October 15, 1955. They have 3 daughters, Charmane, Debbie and Michelle. At present they live in Wetaskiwin, where Laurence is a certified engineering technician, and is employed as a surveyor, draftsman, and engineering-assistant with the City of Wetaskiwin Engineer's Department. Victoria was born October 25, 1942. She also received her education at Telfordville, Thorsby and Leduc. After working at a bank and cafe in Thorsby, she married Eugene Babiak of Thorsby in 1963. They have 2 children, Dwayne and Cindy, and now live in Edmonton. Eugene is employed as an Assistant Branch Manager with Continental Petroleum Rubber Company, and Vicky is an Administration Manager at one of the Bank of Montreal Branches.

Laurence is now the owner of the family farm.

Mike passed away July 30, 1970, at the age of 67 years. Catherine moved to the village of Thorsby after Mike's passing, where she still lives, and aids various Community Clubs.

THE STORY OF PETER LICKOCH AND MARY (LICKOCH) KOZIAK

by Mary Lickoch Koziak

I, being the daughter of the late Peter and Tatianna Patrick (Petryk) was born in Feb. 1920. On Nov. 20, 1939, I married Peter Lickoch, the son of the late Fred and Annie Lickoch of Sunnybrook.

A few days after our wedding we loaded our few wedding presents and personal belongings on a wagon and drove to my new home, a distance of 5 miles, (SW



Peter and Mary Lickoch on their farm in 1940.

18-49-1 W5). This was my home for the next 33 years.

My husband had built a small frame house that summer but had not finished it, and as a result the first winter seemed very cold. The heating system consisted of a wood and coal burning stove, and an air-tight heater. This would heat up the house fast, but would cool off equally as fast. We sawed all our firewood that first winter with a cross-cut saw held on a wooden construction called a saw horse. The following year we started to build a barn and a chicken house. My husband, with the help of his brothers (John and William), sawed most of their lumber in their own sawmill in the Carnwood area, and then hauled it home by horse and wagon.

We dug a basement under the house, by digging the dirt and throwing it out the window. After a few years had passed we installed a furnace in the basement in which we burnt coal. My husband, with the help of his brother-in-law Mike Kobeluck, would dig this coal by hand at the Strawberry Creek. It was a 1 day trip with sleigh to go out and dig the coal and return.

In 1945 we bought our first car, a Model A Coupe. I immediately learned to drive as it was a great asset for a farm wife to be able to drive a car. Being a small car it could go through many a bad mud hole, and there were many of them on the way to Thorsby. There were no gravel roads at all at that time.

In 1949 we bought our first tractor from our implement dealer, Mr. Hale. Then we started to convert our horse drawn machinery to tractor drawn. That year we also bought a gas driven washing machine; as up to now clothes were washed on a wash board, and homemade soap was used. This Inglis machine later was converted with an electric motor which served us for 28 years.

In 1953 we joined the Strawberry Rural Electrical Association and by 1954 power was connected to our homes. Progress from then on moved fast. We bought many electric appliances, the most remembered was the electric motor to pump water, as up to now water was pulled from a well by a rope and pail.

In 1956 the County of Leduc held a Plumbing School. The entrance fee was \$5 With knowledge obtained there my husband was able to do all our own plumbing.

In 1961 the Warburg-Sunnybrook Mutual

Telephone Co. was formed. My husband, with the help of Bob Worshek and Lawrence Kobeluck, drove out to the Brazeau River where they cut the poles to build our line. They hauled them home with Worshek's truck. The farmers on our immediate line all helped to drill in the poles and string the wire. Life from then on became a great satisfaction from the many accomplishments. As the years went by my husband's health began to fail and on June 6, 1966 he died of cancer in his 53rd year. I rented the farm out for the next 3 years, but I still kept on raising chickens some of which I kept for my own use and sold the rest, also the cattle. I bought hatchery chicks (around 200 laying hens and 100 roosters). I supplied many friends with eggs. Eggs sold around 30¢ a dozen and roosters 25¢ a pound.

In 1969 I married Max Koziak and while he worked on the railway as a section foreman, I attended to the farm chores.

In 1972 I sold the farm to T. Power and retired to Edmonton where we now live.

ELMER KRUGER

Elmer Kruger came to Telfordville on April 1, 1937 and opened a repair shop and took in 15¢ the first day. A fire in 1943 due to an explosion of a gas iron, caused considerable damage to the newly built home. Mrs. Tina Kruger was in the hospital for 31 days with second degree burns and several of the children were hospitalized for a few days.

The following spring, after redoing the house with new Gyproc etc., it rained for 3 days and 3 nights and the Strawberry Creek flooded its banks. The house was washed off its foundation and almost went down the creek. Bentleys and several others suffered considerable losses of pigs and farm buildings. Previous to this, Mr. Kruger had taken over the Bulk Sales for Imperial Oil, delivering gas to the farmers all during World War I. He sold out in 1951 because of ill health, caused by so much indoor work and the gas fumes from working on machinery in the winter, etc. The doctor suggested moving to the Coast to a lower altitude.

He was president of the local telephone company for a number of years, with considerable increase in subscribers during that time.

He also served as president of the picnic grounds and community hall until he left.

Harvey and Lorne Kruger reside in Richmond, B.C.; Marlene Lemky in Gibsons, B.C., Alvin in Tahsis, B.C.; and Mavis Froese in Chilliwack, B.C. Elmer Kruger now lives in Abbotsford, B.C.

WILLIAM KRUGER HISTORY

By Mary Kruger Hubscher

On July 27, 1928 Mr. and Mrs. William Kruger and family of 4 small children arrived at Leduc from Poland. The next day Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Wedman took them to their farm and settled them in a vacant house on one of their farms. They worked for Mr. Wedman and some of their neighbors. After about a year Dad purchased a quarter of C.P.R. land SE 15-50-2 W5 in the Telfordville district. By this time they had a few head of cattle and some household furniture.

In March of 1930 Dad bought an old log school house and they took it apart, loaded it on 2 sleighs and began moving it to their farm. This was in April and the snow was melting rapidly. They got as far as Buford corner and were unable to go any farther as the snow was almost gone.

They got 2 wagons and reloaded all of the material and finally made it to the farm. The building was put together again, a new roof put on and their first house was ready.

They then packed their belongings into 2 wagons (by this time Dad had bought a team and wagon). Mother's relatives, Forsters and Wedmans helped with the moving and started them on the trek to the farm.

By this time there were 5 children, a daughter Esther had been born on January 13, 1929. Mother and Andrew Forster took turns chasing the 3 head of cattle behind the wagons. Another family moving was the Albert Sonnenbergs and the families travelled together. Progress was slow but finally they reached Weed Creek where they stopped to let the horses rest, and to prepare some food for the family.

There was lots of water there and it was a stopping place for many weary travellers. The Chris Forster family caught up to them at Weed Creek and took us children back to their farm near Calmar, where we stayed for about a week. The folks continued on to their farm. Eventually they reached it and set up their few pieces of furniture and unpacked their belongings.

They had a few chickens, 3 head of cattle and a team of horses. There were no other buildings as yet. After a couple of days Dad had to go back for some feed so Mother was left alone that night. When it got dusk the coyotes started howling all around and she became terrified. There were no close neighbors so she took some blankets and climbed down into the cellar and spent a very restless night there.

When we children finally joined Mom and Dad all we could see was bush and narrow winding trails, with only a log house in the middle of nowhere. For us, it was a new adventure, but not so for our parents.

There were a few neighbors: to the south of us the Grant brothers; to the north the Higham family; and to the east Merriams, Littleprouds, and the Lunde family. West of us were the Grindy, Rae, Walker, James Samson and McKay families. These families had

been living there for a couple of years and had already established themselves. They had broken some land and raised crops of grain, put up the necessary fences and built some buildings.

The 3 Grant brothers had a large flock of chickens. Ray took care of them. Mac was the cook, and when we saw him the first time we thought he was Santa Claus because he wore a long white beard. Clayton usually worked in the fields.

We didn't have a well at first but the Grant brothers had a spring across the road from where they lived, and they hauled their water from it in barrels. They let us share this spring until we were able to dig our own well, Uncle Mac Grant became very popular with us children.



Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Kruger, 48th Anniversary. Family L. to R. Mary, Sally, Esther, Robert, Gus and Harold.

Mom and Dad worked very hard to clear some land, about 5 acres, the first year. They broke it themselves using horses. With 5 children to care for, they labored from early morn until late at night. Mom had no washing machine, only a scrub board, but somehow, we all survived.

Fall came and Dad went back to Leduc and got a job threshing and left Mother with us children. She endured many hardships in those early days.

In Sept. we started school at Pemburton Hill School. It was about 4 miles around the road but we followed trails through the bush going across James Samson's quarter which shortened the distance considerably.

Mrs. Samson was a wonderful person and usually when we passed by their yard on our way home, she would be waiting with some cookies, milk or other treats. Years later I helped her with her household duties as she was badly crippled with arthritis. Her husband James loved to sing and many times at Christmas concerts he would sing Scottish songs. His favorite one was, "When I Was Twenty-One I Never Had Much Money But I Always Had Lots Of Fun". He was quite a singer, too.

We used to walk to school a lot but sometimes we would catch a ride with the Johnson children. Sometimes we rode 5 on one horse with the last one dangerously close to falling off for lack of space on the horse's back. They were good old days and I have

many cherished memories of them.

After several years at Pemburton Hill the country moved a large granary bought from the Morden family, onto the farm now owned by Erling Lunde and it was there that we next went to school. Later a new school house was built just ½ mile north of there, named Elrose School. Later the name was changed to Avon Moor School. One teacher taught all grades from 1 to 8.

During the winter months, those first years, Dad would buy, cut and haul tamarack rails out to Leduc and trade them for grain or cash. One day he was coming home with a big load of about 100 rails and was sitting on top of the load. It was very cold and he was wearing a big old fur coat but his feet got so cold he decided to get down and walk behind the sleigh to warm up. He tied the lines onto the rails and all was fine for awhile. Suddenly the horses started to trot, then ran. He tried to climb back on the load and couldn't. The horses ran faster and there was nothing he could do to catch them. He was west of St. Francis near Hubbard's creek when the load of rails came apart and half of them fell off. The horses kept on going until they came close to our turnoff corner, where somone with a camper parked beside the road had a fire going, and this frightened the horses even more. As they turned the corner the rest of his load fell off. The horses continued running until they reached home. Mother heard them and went outside and was shocked to see the foaming horses and empty sleigh. She unhitched them, put them in the barn and fed them, wondering all the time where Dad was. After a long time he arrived home, not cold anymore, but furious. He went straight to the barn, hitched the team back to the sleigh, took Mother and a lantern and went back to pick up the rails and returned home with the load. Mother says she almost froze to death, it was so bitterly cold.

I can still recall the time Dad had to go to Leduc for some supplies and didn't come back the same day. There was no means of transportation at home to haul the 5 gallon can of cream to the corner 2 miles away for the cream truck to pick it up. Mother and I got up about 4 a.m. and carried the can of cream the 2 miles, going barefoot all the way. Well, we got back intime for me to get off to school. The total cream cheque was \$1.50, a far cry from 1978 cream prices.

Another 2 children were born into the family, Harold and Hertha, but Hertha died 2 weeks after birth.

In 1939 Dad bought his first tractor and that fall went into partnership with Fred Moeller who had a threshing machine. They threshed several farmers' crops; up until then the Lundes had done all the threshing. As the years went by, more land was cleared and larger fields of grain needed to be harvested.

The women were kept busy at that time cooking for about 15 men with 5 meals a day.

In 1938, I, the oldest daughter Mary, married Albert Hubscher and settled down to farming. Several



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kruger, 1975 with some of their children and grandchildren.

years later Robert married Eva Gellert and Sally married Adolf Forster. Esther married Edwin Felske and Harold married Mary Woods. All of the married children are farmers. Gus is not married; he works as a carpenter building homes.

Our parents built a large new house with 2 stories, also a new barn and other buildings. About 1961 Harold went into partnership with Dad. Later Harold took the farm over. Harold and Mary bought a house and moved it on the same yard. They then built a new garage and pig barn. About 6 years ago they built a new farm home. They now have 2 children, Dwayne and Loryle.

Mom and Dad retired several years ago but still live in their home on the farm. Even though they are now both in their 80's they are still quite active. Dad still drives his own car to town and Mother does all of her own housework. They both attend church services regularly.

Since July of 1978 the Baptist congregation of Telfordville has held their services in the former Mission Covenant Church in Warburg. They have purchased the church and parsonage and since Sept. 24 have a full time minister, the Rev. and Mrs. J.A. Harrison, residing in Warburg. The Telfordville Baptist congregation had formerly used the old Avon Moor school building as their church.

Mother and Dad had many hardships, disappointements and lots of hard work but also the Lord blessed them abundantly. They have a large family, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, with 58 descendants. Looking back over the years they feel proud to have had a part as pioneers in establishing a community such as it is now.

MIKE AND MARY KRYSA

by daughter Stephanie Wasyliw

My father was born in Lashki, Poland in 1887, to a



Mike Krysa Family - 1941. John, Stephanie, Mike, Mary and Metro.

family of 3 brothers and 1 sister. Later, he served as an officer in World War I. In 1921 he married my mother, Mary Sereda. She came from a family of 5. She was born in 1899 at Lashki also. Three sons were born to them — the youngest dying of diphtheria at an early age.

Dad arrived in Canada in 1929. From Montreal he came by train to Leduc, where he met farmers that needed help on their farms. He worked for a lot of them around the Calmar area, especially around threshing time. He soon learned there were some relatives here, as his youngest brother John had arrived earlier. His other brother and sister stayed in Poland.

In 1935 he bought the N.E. quarter of Sec. 25-49-2-W5 which is located south of Telfordville. There were some great neighbors like the Fred Grant families. They were most helpful.

My mother arrived in July of 1939 with my 2 brothers Metro and John.



Metro and Sophia Krysa -1977.

Together they began to farm and clear some more land. My brothers attended Telfordville School just to learn the English language; as they had gone to school only in Poland.

I was born to them a year later. Soon John went to work in Edmonton as a shoemaker and Metro stayed on to help build the house in Thorsby (in 1945). Later he worked in Edmonton, then in 1949 in Spirit River, Alberta. There he met and married Sophia Parchoc in October 1951.

I grew up here on the farm and attended Telfordville School grades 1 and 2, which was a $2\frac{1}{2}$ mile walk. I later attended Thorsby Schools. We kept mostly hogs and a few hundred turkeys every year.

In 1960 my folks retired to Thorsby leaving the

farm to their sons.

My father passed away on Feb. 25, 1970 and is buried in the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Cemetery near Thorsby. Mom lives in Edmonton with her son John. Metro lives in Edmonton with his wife Sophia. They have a family of 6—4 boys and 2 girls, the eldest of their children Milly Beel is married and works in her own beauty shop. I married Mike Wasyliw in 1961 and we have 2 children, Maryann and Phillip. They both attend Thorsby School.

JACK LISTER

submitted by Jack Scobie

John Lister, better known as Jack, was born in Stanley, Scotland June 27, 1880. He was a blacksmith by trade. In 1906 he sailed for Canada where he worked in a blacksmith shop in Saskatchewan till 1908 and then went back to Scotland.

He was there long enough to tell his father, the late George Lister, what a great place Canada was, then sailed again for Canada. This time he settled at Brock in Saskatchewan and set up his own shop. From there he moved to Empress, Alberta and took up land where he farmed and had a blacksmith shop on it.



Jack Lister and 2 sisters: L. to R. Jannet Badger, Jack Lister and Georgina Scobie.

He was there 25 years, then rented his farm and went to work as a blacksmith in lumber camps in Alberta and B.C. He worked in Fraser's camp and Anthony's camp out by Breton. He also worked on the Alaska highway when it was being built.

In 1952 he moved to Telfordville to be near his sister Mrs. Allan Scobie and made his home with her. In 1964 he travelled to Scotland again to visit his one remaining sister there whom he hadn't seen for 43 years.

Jack Lister lived a very active life and was a great gardener. He lived to the great age of 91 years and passed away in Aug. 1971 and was buried in Telfordville Cemetery, beside his sister and brother-in-law Georgina and Allan Scobie.

THE MARTIN FAMILY

by Martha Martin DeNeve Knudsen

My father John Martin was born in New Haven,

Connecticut U.S.A. about June 24, 1853. My grandfather, Paul Martin, was born in Ireland. The family moved to Eastern Canada when my father was not very old. They lived near Ottawa and he worked in lumber camps, starting at a very young age.

My mother, Amelia Knull, was born in Russia on August 17, about 1885. Her parents were John Knull and Paulina Seipert from Wolhynia, Russia. The family, immigrated to Canada about 1899. They settled southwest of Leduc on a homestead. Amelia worked in private homes and in the laundry room of the old Waldorf Hotel until she married John Martin August 21, 1906 in Leduc.

They moved out to the homestead, in the Telfordville district.

The NE 28-49-1 W5, had been filed on by Joseph M. Eaton, April 20, 1903. After some improvements had been made, title was cancelled and John Martin paid \$157.00 for the improvements when he filed on the homestead on May 27, 1905.

John Martin had worked in logging camps in eastern Canada and had travelled some before going to work at Armour's Meat Packing Plant in Chicago for 4 years before coming west to the homestead.

On the homestead they lived in a one-room log house close to the road, namely The Blind Line, later the main road from Leduc to Telfordville and areas west.

Three of their children were born in that log house. They then built a large house farther back from the road. The remaining children were born there, most of them without even the assistance of a midwife.

There were nine children in the Martin family, five girls and four boys: Martha, Joseph, Bridget, John Jr. Michael, Rose Ann, (who passed away in infancy), Paula and Hilda. Michael passed away on Vancouver Island, August 26, 1977 and was laid to rest in Forest Lawn.



John Martin with DeNeve's pail fed orphan colt in 1936.



Frank DeNeve loading a hailed out wheat crop that was cut with a mower and raked up for cattle feed in 1947. The loader is a horse drawn stook loader.

John Martin passed away January 10, 1927 and was laid to rest in a Catholic cemetery southwest of Leduc. Amelia Martin passed away in Vancouver August 27, 1953, and was laid to rest in Forest Lawn cemetery in Vancouver.

Martha Martin (myself) was born October 4, 1908 in the little log house near the road. I spent all of my life, excepting 4 years, in the immediate area.

I was united in marriage with Alfonse DeNeve August 6, 1930 in the old St. Michael's R.C. church in Leduc. Rev. Pat McQuaid performed the ceremony.

Alfonse DeNeve was born in Toorut, Belgium on November 15, 1891. He immigrated to the U.S.A. in the spring of 1911, where he obtained employment on a dairy and market garden farm near Detroit, Michigan. He worked there for about 7 years. He then came to Saskatchewan where he worked on a farm at Pense, Sask. in the summer, and in a lumber camp at Big River, Sask. in the winter for 2 years.

At that time he and his brother Firmin came out to the Telfordville area, where they purchased the ½ section S 33-49-1 W5 in March of 1920. When they came out with a livery team from Leduc to see the land, the snow was waist deep in the bush. That land had been owned by someone else and had been left without any improvements on it. It was all covered with heavy bush. They lived in a tent until they got a small shack built.

Alfonse and I farmed in the area until he became ill and after a long period in the hospital he passed away in September 1957. He was laid to rest in the Roman Catholic Cemetery in Thorsby. His brother Firmin moved to Rimbey, Alberta before 1930 and later moved to Salmon Arm B.C. where he passed away a few years ago.

Alfonse and Martha had one son, Francis, born August 16, 1931, Francis has 4 children: Virginia, Evelyn, Edsel and Albert.

In June of 1926 conditions at home were unhappy and I left home. I started out walking and carrying my few belongings. Before reaching Calmar a man I knew overtook me on the road and carried my small bundle. When we reached Calmar he got me a ride to Leduc with some young men in a Ford Touring car. Before

we reached Leduc it rained, and as the roads were all dirt they got very slippery. The car slipped into the ditch. The men got it out but the delay caused me to miss the train to Edmonton where I wanted to go to get farther away from home.

I took the first train to Edmonton the next morning. When I arrived in Edmonton, a lady from the Y.W.C.A. was at the station. She spotted me and took me to the Y.W.C.A., and they assisted me in getting employment.

I was hired by a Mr. O.C. Millhan of Hughenden, first as a chore boy and then for general housework. They were very nice people and were good to me. The days were long, from 5 A.M. until 9 P.M. I received \$20.00 per month in summer when there were a number of hired men. I worked for \$5.00 and sometimes for my board and room in winter.

While working at Hughenden I got very sick with what turned out to be appendicitis. The doctor came about 10 a.m. but there was no train for Edmonton until 11 p.m. arriving in Edmonton at 7 a.m. the next morning. They had arranged for a stretcher to meet the train and I was operated on by 9 a.m. and it was ruptured. I contracted pneumonia before very long and was very sick. I was in hospital for 6 weeks before I recovered enough to go out. I left Hughenden in winter and went to work for a family in Bruderheim for \$30.00 per month, which I though was wonderful. I was 21 years old at the time, but while in Bruderheim I came down with the measles and pneumonia again, and had to have a special nurse for almost a week. The good wages were a failure and I wrote back to Hughenden for them to advance me some money to pay the doctor and nurse, and I went back to Hughenden to work. I stayed there until I left to get married.

They had a beautiful crop, but one day in July a bad hailstorm hit and smashed the crop completely. There were 32 panes of glass broken in the house.

That was the reason for taking a team of horses for my wages that were owing. We needed the horses on the farm.

My trip with my horses was in late July, 1930. I caught the horses in the pasture Monday afternoon. They were broken for field work but neither had ever been ridden. I saddled one and rode her back to the home farm, about 5 miles.

On Tuesday morning I started for Thorsby, riding one and leading the other. I soon found out they were very afraid of cars. The first day I stopped for lunch in Hardisty where I put them in a livery barn to be fed and watered. In the evening I stopped at a farm four miles out of Sedgewick for the night.

Wednesday morning I started out again. When I got near town I heard a train going through, so I stopped out of sight until it passed. I then crossed the railroad track to follow the road through town, parallel to the railroad. I didn't know there was a freight train coming through. There was an embankment beside the railroad track and I thought I

would be safe behind it, so the horses couldn't see it, but when it was beside me the whistle blew. The horses turned around to go back where they came from and I could not control them. I had visions of landing in the railroad fence ½ mile away where the road crossed the track. A man came along in a car and noticed my trouble. He got in front of the horses and slowed down so that the horses slowed down and we stopped them. I led them into town and into a livery barn for awhile until they calmed down.

I had only a halter on the one I was leading so I got a bit and was able to control him. I realized I would have to continue my journey on backroads to keep away from motor traffic. Also, sideroads are not as hard on horses' feet.

The remainder of the journey was uneventful. I stopped at farmhouses overnight and at noon as the horses had to be fed. Sometimes it was difficult to get good feed for the horses, and one day after stopping for lunch, I noticed the horses had 2-year old wheat straw bundles to eat and that meant they didn't have proper feed. I had to stop where the grass was good and let them graze but that took too much time. I arrived home in the Thorsby area early Saturday afternoon, the remainder of the trip being uneventful.

I could travel about 40 miles per day without harming the horses. One day I made 44 miles but the horses were so hot and tired I had to let them cool off before I could feed or water them.

Andy Knudsen came to work for me on the farm in May of 1948 after Alfonse DeNeve became ill. He continued to help me on the farm until Alfonse passed away. We were married October, 4, 1958 and continued to farm until June 1965 when we sold the farm to Leon Krawiec and we retired in Thorsby. After one year of retirement I went to work again delivering mail on a rural route which I did for 7½ years, retiring on December 31, 1973.

ANGUS AND FRANCES McDOUGALL

by Eddie McHough

Angus Duncan McDougall was born in Glengarry County, Ontario. As a young man he worked in the coal mining area of Pennsylvania as a blacksmith keeping miners tools in shape and shoeing horses.

He came to Telfordville in the early 1900's and filed on a homestead, SE 30-49-1 W4, near Telfordville School which opened in 1908. He was kinds. He kept a large herd of Shorthorn cattle and numbers of Yorkshire swine. He brought the first purebred Percheron stallion into the area which produced many good horses in the district. He also had a high-grade Shorthorn bull.

Mr. McDougall took an active "interest" in local government. He was a local school trustee for the Telfordville school which opened in 1908. He was also councillor in the Pioneer M.D. #490 for several



Angus D. McDougall - 1944.



Mike McHugh and Dervik Darling - 1916.

years. Part of this time he was Reeve.

Miss Frances Lucas began teaching in Telfordville in 1914 for two years. She and Mr. McDougall were married about 1916. Frances was devoted to farm life and took a keen interest in cattle and sheep. She passed away quite suddenly in 1929.

Mr. McDougal carried on with the farm until 1936 when he sold his farm equipment, horses and swine. He sold his cattle herd the next year. He then moved to a samll house on the outskirts of Thorsby and rented his land until he sold it to Julius Scheetz in 1942. He lived in Thorsby until he went to Vancouver where his sister Mrs. Elizabeth McDonald lived. He passed away at the Coast. Both he and Mrs. McDonald rest in Forest Lawn.

Allan McDonald, nephew of Angus and son of sister Elizabeth operated the first flour-mill in Thorsby on the site of the present day N.A.D.P. cheese factory.

MIKE MELLICK SR.

related by Mike Jr.

Mike Mellick was born in November 1873 in the village of Tuchula in Austria. When he was 18 years old he served 2 years in the Austrian Army which was then under Franz Joseph. Upon returning home in 1893, he married Katie Solila who was born in the same village in October 1875. They farmed together and had a family of 3 children: Anne, Jenny and Louis.

They owned about 12 acres of land. He could see no future in that country for it was already crowded and land was expensive. They were corresponding with some people who had already left and were in Alberta, Canada, so they decided to come over. In April 1905 they sold their property which was just little more than enough for the fare for the five of them, and they were on their way to the land where they could get 160 acres of land for \$10.00 with lots of wood for building and firewood for they were even short of that in Austria.

In May 1905 they arrived in Leduc and were met at the station by a friend, Alex Senetchko, father of Nick, and they were taken to his place which was about 4 miles southeast of what is now Calmar. They lived there all the coming summer and father worked here and there. One could not make high wages in those days so they had a time keeping body and soul together. On July 12, 1905 there was one more mouth to feed as another son was born and that was Peter.

In the fall of 1905 father came west looking for a homestead and he took up SE 18-49-1 W5. Here also were some people who had emigrated earlier from the same vicinity in Austria, where he had come from namely the Kobelucks, Senios, Turgeons and Lickasczs. So in the fall and winter of 1906-1906, with the help of his neighbours, they built a house and barn.

In the spring of 1906, they once again loaded the family in a wagon and moved west over trails winding around swamps and lakes, fording several swollen creeks. After two days and one night of camping in the rain, (mosquitoes were plentiful in those days), they reached the homestead. Between 1906 and 1910 this family made good use of the rabbits and wild meats which were plentiful in those days, for without these they just could not have made it. In April 1907 with the help of Mrs. Turgeon as mid-wife, John was born.

When John was born, Mrs. Mellick became very sick and Mike walked to Leduc, a distance of about 30 miles, to see Dr. Woods who gave him some medicine. He walked right back and when he reached the Martin place (Joe's farm today) he was so tired he collapsed.

Mrs. Martin gave him some food and he rested before walking the rest of the way home.

There were four years of rabbit stew and travelling to Leduc and back for supplies, which sometimes took as long as a week depending on how much it rained. Many times, when they hit a bridge, it would float away with the swollen waters of the creek. Many times they would have to cut trees and lay a new deck on the bridge before they could cross it. One day he drove onto a bridge and the top of it just spread out and his horses fell in. He managed to save one horse but the other drowned. There were no schools in those days, and they had 3 children of school age with no place to go.

In 1910 they decided they had enough of that, so they sold the homestead and moved back to Calmar. They bought SE 28-49-26 W4, where they lived and farmed for 6 years. This part was an older settlement and had some roads. They were closer to schools and churches and most important, the town of Leduc, where they could sell their produce of cattle and grain. On November 21, 1910, I, Mike arrived and the last one arriving to this union was Mary (Betty) in April of 1914.

The years passed with farming becoming more profitable. Dad bought a ½ section of land at \$10.00 an acre, which once again had to be cleared and buildings built. That was the N1/2 19-49-26 W4. They sold their home place to Chris Forester who wanted immediate possession so they rented 1/4 section from C.H. Stout namely the NE 12-49-26 W4. Everything was going on well. The family by that time was old enough to help on the farm, but in November 1918 the flu struck a big blow to this family. As I recall it, I was then 8 years old and everybody was sick. We lived in a long log house divided into three big rooms. I remember having moved 4 beds into the one big room to save heating which was with wood only. Father and I were not too sick, so we had to look after the family and do all the chores. We had one visit from Dr. Woods of Leduc. On Nov. 2, Dad and I worked very hard to comfort my mother who was very ill by then, and about midnight we lay down for a rest. Upon awakening in the morning we found mother had passed away at the age of 43, with Mary 4 years old beside her. We did not know what to do or who to turn to, because we knew that Mrs. Mosher and Mr. Greg down the road had passed away too.

Dad moved her body to an extra room in the house where it was cool. She lay there for 2 days' til one of the neighbours was able to get out of bed and make a coffin. He was a carpenter by trade. Dad washed and dressed her, as funeral homes and undertakers were unheard of in those days. By then my brother John was over the flu. He was 10 years old and I was 8 years old. We loaded Mother's body on a democrat and hauled her to a cemetery in Sprucedale, about 12 miles away, and laid her down on the ground. Dad had to stay home and look after 4 more children that were very sick. He gave us instructions on what to do. There

were some people ½ mile from the cemetery that he knew by the name of Pyrcz, and I was elected to go tell them that we brought our mother to the graveyard, and could they find help to dig a grave and bury her. This they did, and our mother was buried without a funeral service of any kind. After that episode of flu, things were very hard. Dad bought that half section of land on time-payments, and living on rented land. He had to build, clear land, and look after the family of 5. The youngest was 4 years old.

In 1920 we moved to the new place and batched for 5 years. In 1925, Dad married Hazel Kilik. This marriage brought one more son, Leonard, born on May 28, 1926. In 1935 my brother John took over the home place and dad bought 80 acres a ½ mile east of Calmar where he retired. He passed away in September 1944.

Anne married Mike Workun and raised 10 children. They retired in Calmar as of 1978. Jenny married Harry Melesko and raised 3 boys and passed away in 1953, and Harry in 1959. Louis lived in Kamloops B.C. and passed away in December 1961. Peter married Anne Fedan and they have 3 children and are now retired in Leduc as of 1978. John married Mary Yanish and had 3 children and passed away in February of 1978. Mike married Bessie Fedan and had 3 children and retired to Thorsby as of 1974. Mary married Ivor Williams and lost him in World War II. She is now living in Langley, B.C. Leonard is also married and living in Langley B.C. as of 1978.

THE PAUL MERKLER'S LIFE IN ALBERTA

as related by Mrs. Martha Merkler

Paul Merkler arrived in Montreal, Quebec on October 8th, 1924. He had sailed on the Andania from Zurich, Switzerland and came to see the land of opportunity, as Canada was known in his homeland. Paul was a medical student but he felt a need to travel and perhaps begin a new way of life.

Later he sent for his wife Martha, who was a registered nurse and together they began a new life in a farming venture on a rented farm at Wilkie, Saskatchewan. They had to learn the hard way and it took him 2 hours to milk a cow. Since they could not speak English it was necessary to have an interpreter in order to communicate with others in the area.

They had arrived in Wilkie by train and when they decided to leave, they again went by train, taking everything they had along. Lethbridge was their next home and while there, Martha served as midwife to many mothers. This proved a blessing as there was a scarcity of doctors then.

From Lethbridge they moved to Leduc taking livestock and machinery with them. Here he rented a farm from Herman Felske and they lived on it for 3 years then bought their own land. It was near Thorsby



Mr. & Mrs. Paul Merkler, Earnest and Martha, holidaying in B.C. - 1929.

\$4000.00 which at that time was a large investment. When they moved onto the farm they were surprised to find the new home without doors, windows or inside wall partitions. With the help of neighbors they were able to put the house in order. Times were hard but they managed, through mixed-farming methods, to buy the staples they needed. Eggs were sold as well as cream for groceries. It seemed every 5 years they experienced a crop failure, were hailed out or had too much rain or not enough of it.

They liked to attend church services in the Lutheran church in Thorsby but had no car so Sam and Hertha Ollenberg would pick them up on Sunday mornings. Many Sunday afternoons were spent in good fellowship with their friends after church. Some times people would bring food and share it and Sundays were looked forward to after a week of hard work. During those years some of the Telfordville school teachers boarded with them. Two of those were Florence Lawson who boarded for 3 years at their home and another was Paul Kruger.

On October 25, 1949 they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and a surprise party was held for



The Merkler Home and Family on the farm at Thorsby. L. to R. Walter, Earnest, Mr. Madier, Mrs. Madier, Mrs. Paul Merkler, Martha, Heidi, Wesley Main, Johnny Steidel.

them at the Julius Scheetz home. The only way they could get them over without them learning about the party was to say that the Scheetz's son Norman was sick and needed Mrs. Merkler's help.

When they decided to retire to Fort Saskatchewan in 1959 their friends got together to bid them farewell with a surprise party. That particular Sunday Mr. Merkler was very upset after church because no one talked very much with him and he went home feeling very sad. Later Arnold Bablitz persuaded them to come over to his place and when they arrived they found all of their friends there. The reason no one visited with him at church earlier was because they were afraid someone would let the secret out.

After retirement Mr. Merkler started painting pictures as a hobby, and was very talented in this field. He painted many beautiful paintings, landscapes, mountain scenes and scenes from his old homeland of Switzerland. He won prizes for his art work before passing away on September 11, 1964.

The Merklers had 5 children and they received their education in Leduc, Telfordville and Thorsby. Martha is Mrs. Lawrence Letourneau of Leduc and they have 5 children. Ernest lives in Mill Woods and races horse chariots. He and his wife Gloria have 2 children. Walter, a hotel businessman remained single. He lives in Vancouver, B.C. Heidi is married with 2 children and they too live in B.C.

Mrs. Merkler in 1978 enjoyed excellent health except for failing eyesight which has plagued her most of her life. She lives in the Henderson Senior Citizens' Home in Fort Saskatchewan and had revisited her old home in Switzerland many times since returning there with her son Walter in 1936. That trip was made by ship. Her last visit there was in 1976.

THE ADOLPH OLLENBERG STORY

by Sam Ollenberg

Louise and William Ollenberg immigrated to Canada from Russia in the spring of 1900 and settled on a farm near Millet. They had a family of five children; Fred, Adolph, Justine, Julia and Rhinold.

Our dad, Adolph, was 10 years old when they arrived in Canada. They stayed on the farm only a few years because it was a long trip on foot to Strathcona to shop for salt, flour and a few other things necessary for survival. In the year 1904, they moved to Strathcona to work at the coal mines. Adolph bought a team of horses and got on the gravel haul. Granddad got a job working at the installation of the first sewer system in Edmonton. In 1912, Adolph married Katherine Block and they moved to a farm near Michigan Centre, about 8 miles northwest of Leduc, on the S.W. of 31-48-25 W4. There were five children born there: Elsie, Esther, Bill, Sam, and Frieda.

Dad heard there was cheap land farther west, so he paid \$10.00 down and filed on a homestead: the N.W.



Adoph and Katherine Ollenberg - 1928.



Adolph Ollenberg Family at Michigan Centre - 1927.

35-48-2- W5. In the summer of 1928, he built a frame house and moved out onto his homestead of 160 acres of bush. In 1929, January 7, Henry, the youngest of six children, was born.

The land clearing was all done by hand; bush was heavy and there were lots of rocks to keep your axe dull. The summer holidays weren't much fun because we had to cut and pick brush and rocks most of the time. There weren't any prairie gophers because they couldn't dig holes on account of the rocks, and they didn't know how to build houses.

We used to walk 7 miles east to Zingle's store to buy groceries and leaf tobacco for Dad. Later the next year, Mr. Edstrom built a store beside the townline half a mile west of our place. Ed Brosman started a blacksmith shop just west of Edstrom's store and Andrew Paholka built a store at the same site where the Tomazewski store is presently located. In 1930 the Pioneer elevator was built and the railroad came through to Sunnybrook. Most of the people lived through hard times in the thirties. Everyone within a distance of 2 or 3 miles from the Falconer School, later named Sunnybrook school, either walked or rode horseback. After School, in the wintertime, Bill and I had to saw firewood by hand to keep the heater going and the house warm.

We used to go hunting for bush chicken and rabbit a lot, sometimes with a 22 rifle, but mostly with sling shots. We wore bib overalls with lots of pockets, and the railroad track was nearby, so we'd fill our pockets with gravel from the railroad, and always had lots of slingshot ammunition. There were no recreational facilities in those days, so hunting wild chicken and rabbits (which were plentiful) was our prime source of recreation, sport and also food. It tasted pretty good when you had no other meat. By the way, I still enjoy a dinner of wild rabbit today. There were Leonard Edstrom, Ruben Schmidt, Andrew Paholka, Nate Hayes, a black boy, and Bill and myself in the group who used to hunt together.

One time Leonard, Nate, Bill and I were going hunting with slingshots. Bill wanted to go in the bush to the north and Nate wanted to go to the east. They got to arguing and shooting at each other from a distance of about 50 yards, when Bill popped Nate on the side of the head with a pebble. He started running north with Nate after him, so we went hunting to the north.

In those days most of the kids went barefoot most of the summer. One October day in 1932, I went to school barefoot as usual, and it started to snow and it snowed about two inches. I was sitting in class worrying how I was going to get home barefoot in the snow. Just as I was about ready to go, I saw Dad coming with my shoes. I sure was relieved to see him come.

In the wintertime we used to walk one and a half miles west to the Sunnybrook Creek hill to sleigh ride. Leonard Edstrom had a sturdy sled, and so did we, so we built a long bobsled with an eight-foot plank across the two for about 5 or 6 passengers to ride on. Our dog, Grip, used to pull it to the hill and back for us.

Most of the boys in those days used to smoke on the sly. Leonard and Andrew used to swipe tobacco from their father's store. Sometimes when Bill and I wanted tobacco, we used to find where a hen was laying and nesting in the bush, take about a dozen eggs and give them to Henry, who was about six years old, and he'd take them to Edstrom's store and trade them for a package of 10¢ Ottoman tobacco.

In the winter of 1939, Bill and I started working at the lumber mills in the bush west of Breton. Henry started later in 1943. Henry and I went to the bush every winter, up until 1948. In 1936, Esther married Julius Scheetz. They farmed until 1970 and then bought a house in Leduc and moved off the farm. Julius passed away on Sept. 27, 1975, and Esther still lives in Leduc by herself.

Elsie has been in Red Deer for a number of years and still lives there. Bill married Mary Hum in 1943 and they had four children: three girls and one boy. He farmed near Alsike until 1967, when he had to leave the farm because of poor health, and bought an acreage in Mulhurst. He passed away on May 14, 1974.

Frieda went to the United States in 1942, and



Sam and Hertha Ollenberg. Daughters, Virginia, Shirley and Diane -1967.

finally landed in New Orleans, where she married Gust Zervas. Her husband, Gust, passed away in 1972, and now she is trying to sell her property and move back to Alberta.

Henry married Julia Chinchurak in 1949. They have 2 girls who are both married now. He bought a farm 1½ miles west of Telfordville and is still farming there today.

I married Hertha Scheetz on June 17, 1949. We have three girls. Virginia, the oldest, married Jim Popik, and Shirley and Diane are at home. I bought a farm in 1946 and still live on the farm two miles east of Telfordville. In December, 1965, I was elected to the county council. I am now going on thirteen years as councillor, three of them as Reeve of the County of Leduc.

Times have changed so much in the last 45 years, our girls hardly believe us when we tell them about the hard work and hardships when we were young. There were no recreational facilities or much money in those days, but we created our own recreation. We went skating on lakes, sleigh riding, hunting, fishing, swimming in lakes and creeks, etc., all at no cost to the taxpayer and had a darn good time doing it.

THE ANNA OSBAK FAMILY

by Alma Osbak Oliver of Edmonton.

The Osbak family came from Torstad, Ofaten, Norway around 1915. In Norway their name was Peterson and the parents were Severt and Anna. The name was changed to Osbak which means "where the tide comes in and the hills are in the background."

Severt, the father, had died in Norway and Anna came to Canada with their children: Tina, Bastien, Carl, Alfred, Edwin, Charlotte and Sandra.

Arriving in the Genesee district, the 4 brothers took up homesteads there. Bastien and Edwin worked in mines in Duluth and Wallace. Improving their homesteads and clearing land was all done by hand. Edwin started out with a horse and walking plow.



Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Osbak and their oldest granddaughter.

He married Margaret Dahlgren and they had 3 sons and 5 daughters. Their first daughter, Edna, died and another daughter was named Edna. She also died. Emilie, another daughter, passed away. There are now 2 daughters and 3 sons surviving. Margaret Osbak died in May, 1953, at the age of 49. Her husband, Edwin, lived until January, 1973, and died at the age of 82.

Harold is married and lives in Edmonton. Eddy also lives in Edmonton. Albin lives in Onoway. Lily lives in Calgary and Alma married Earl Gordon Oliver of Cambridge, Mass. and made her home in the States. They have now returned to Edmonton to reside after 26 years in the states.

TOM PARRY

written by Jack Scobie

Tom Parry was born in South Wales and left his



Tom Perry and his daughter Peggy with his sheep dog.

native land as a young man and sailed for Canada. His first farm was at Medicine Hat. In 1924 he left there and came to the Telfordville district where he filed on the NW 26-49-2-W5 and farmed for many years. He was a great sheepman.

He was married and had two children, a son James and a daughter Peggy. James passed away while quite young. His daughter Peggy lived in South Wales and made a trip to Canada in 1940 to visit her father and spent an enjoyable month in Canada.

Later Tom sold his farm to Nick Bendza and went to Calgary, where he stayed for awhile with his brother Jim Parry. Then he returned to South Wales to make his home with his daughter and died there.

MR. AND MRS. STEPHEN PASZTY

by their daughter Julia Couch

My parents, Stephen and Julianna Paszty, emigrated from Hungary in 1929, in hopes of establishing themselves on their own farm in Canada. The opportunities seemed greater in the newly developing country.

They acquired a 160 acre tract of land adjacent to Mr. Kruger's, about 4½ miles from Telfordville. Most of the land was covered with tall deciduous trees and brush with some meadow areas and with a tiny, crystal-clear stream running diagonally across the property. A small log home was constructed, as were other buildings for the animals and poultry.

The clearing of the land was laboriously done by hand with the use of horses for pulling out the stumps. During the next 5 years a total of 70 acres was cleared and seeded to grain, mostly wheat.

Lacking finances, my father worked for nearby farmers, especially during harvest time. He was thus able to get his first team of horses, a few cows and poultry. With the team he plowed the newly-cleared land and must have walked miles each day plowing one furrow at a time. In fact he seeded his first crop by carrying the grain in a bag slung across his shoulders, and throwing handfuls of the grain out in a wide arc to scatter, it as evenly as possible.

The crops were very good for several years but the prices were extremely low. After all the hard work it was most discouraging.

Every summer dad scythed the grass in the meadows which was later collected in a hay rack and carefully stacked into an immense hay stack. For me, it was great fun riding on top of the rack of fragrant hay as it swayed along the dusty dirt road toward the stack. The hay provided feed for our animals during the winter.

Visiting neighbors was indeed a rare occasion. During the summer there was too much work to do.

During the winter a family dared not venture too far away as the stock had to be looked after. Being unable to speak English, it was difficult to communicate with anyone.

I attended school at Avon Moor for 3½ years, having to walk about 2½ miles each way. It was there that I learned my first words of English and in turn taught them to my parents. In winter my dad would sometimes take me to school on horseback when it was too cold or the snow too deep to walk. At times we were fortunate to get a ride home in a sleigh. We would listen to the snow squeaking in the coldness and watch puffs of steam from the horses' nostrils. Often we would take a shortcut across a neighbor's field when the snow was packed hard enough that we could walk on top of the drifts.

My brother Steve was born on the farm in 1931. It was during this time that our neighbors were most helpful and we could not have survived without their kindness and generosity.

In 1935 we moved to Edmonton. Perhaps the hardships of the depression years were too heartbreaking and discouraging.

So much has changed since then! We were amazed to return and see the modern machinery being used on all the farms, the lush fields where trees once stood, and beautiful houses in place of the old log homes. Our farm's terrain has changed too. The little meandering stream is no longer there, and neither is the bridge on the road under which it flowed. The greatest surprise was what looked like an oil drilling rig on "our farm."

Although changes must occur, it is with nostalgia that we remember only the happy times of our life on the farm near Telfordville.

GEORGE PEKARCHIK STORY

as related to granddaughter Betty Blize

I, George Pekarchik, came to Canada in the year of 1927. I came by myself and left my wife Matilda and 4 children in Czechoslovakia. I came ahead to find a job and make a home for my family. They then joined me 24 years later because the war and lack of money held them over there.

When I first came to Canada I worked for Fred Gunsch clearing land by hand with an axe. A few years later I bought my farm located at Telfordville. I then made my living on the farm and had to clear it all by hand also. My son John lives there now.

At first I built a log house and lived in it until my family joined me and then I built a two-storey house and we lived in that until we retired and moved to town. We have our own house in Thorsby and have lived here about 17 years.

We had 4 children. The oldest, Mary still lives in Germany. Anna married Gus Maser and they live on a farm 2 miles south of Sunnybrook. Our son John still lives on and operates the farm at Telfordville. Our youngest daugher Susan died about 5 years ago in Germany.

LIFE HISTORY OF GEORGE AND ANNA SASALA

Related by Anna Sasala

Hearing about Canada opening up for immigrants, 26 year old George Sasala decided to take this opportunity. On March 8th, 1928, he left his wife, Anna, and 2 young children behind in Czechoslovakia with the hope of earning enough money to sponsor them at a later date. He landed at Leduc, Alberta and Mr. Kowalski was one of the first farmers he worked



L. to R. Joseph Sasala, Anna Sasala, Anna Simonik, George Sasala.

for. During the next 3 or 4 years he worked for different farmers in the surrounding district. Despite the Depression, in about 1933, he managed to settle on a farm, S.E. 15-49-2-W5 near Sunnybrook, Alberta. This land had no improvements, no buildings and it had to be cleared first to grow any grain.

His first home consisted of a one-room log cabin, plastered with mud to keep the freezing cold out. With nothing more than an axe in his hand, he began to grub those enormously huge trees. This took endless hard work and courage to keep going.

With the severe depression in the early '30s money was hard to come by. In order to eat, George swung the axe from morning till night for other farmers for 50¢ per day. The wild provided him with meat, which was plentiful in those years. All hope of earning enough money to sponsor his family faded, and a reunion with his family seemed hopeless.

When progress was too slow, George decided to look for another place. In about 1942, he sold his farm at Sunnybrook and bought one in the Telfordville district, it being the N.W. 30-49-1-W5.



George Sasala, Anna Sasala, Fredrick Brier, Lea Brier.

However in 1939, World War II broke out and during this time George lost contact with his family. His wife, Anna, struggled to raise her family, and she paid off a loan on the house and the money borrowed for George's fare to Canada. The war had not quite subsided when George tried to contact his wife by letter. She never received this letter, for Anna and family along with other families fled from their homes to save their lives from the raging war. He made another attempt, this time writing to his brother, asking about his family. He happened to know of Anna's whereabouts. She then contacted George and again new hopes blossomed. By now the Canadian economy improved and a better future was foreseen.

After her children were married and settled. Anna decided to join her husband. So in 1948 she set sail for Canada. Anna remembers well how she met up with George when she arrived in Edmonton. The train arrived ahead of schedule and when she and 3 other travelling companions entered the C.P. station, they were met by immigration personnel. Anna saw a man gazing at the clock and when asked if she could recognize her husband, she said, "His face looks familiar, but no it's not him, for George is a tall and slim man, this one is too stalky and heavy built." Anna tried to catch his eye, but this man was too busy timing the clock. When this man was informed of the early arrival of the train and that these were the 4 wives waiting to be met by their husbands, he was put to the test to recognize his wife. George looked at the first one, "No, that's not her", the second one "No", the third one "No", "Where is the fourth one?" (Anna had slipped away for a few minutes.) When she returned, he looked at her and loudly said, "That's my wife". Anna asked him why he had paid no attention to her before. He said, "I was waiting for the train to arrive". This reunion ended 20 years of separation.

George took his wife home and when she saw under what conditions he lived, she was somewhat disappointed and shocked. Many a lonely tear was shed. Anna had left behind not only a rather comfortable home but also her family. Now she seemed trapped in a strange country and, unable to speak the language, she felt lost and lonely.

Surrounded by loving friends and neighbours, they welcomed her with a party and showered the Sasalas with many gifts ranging from chickens to geese, sheep, calves and household articles. Anna soon swept her loneliness behind and now the two working togeter, George and Anna, made good progress on their farm.

In 1964, they sold their farm and retired to the town of Thorsby, Alberta. In 1970 with their friends and neighbours they celebrated their 50th Anniversary. The highlight of their life here in Canada was when their son, Joseph and their daughter Anna, visited with them in 1966. They have since lost their daughter, Anna and after a lengthy illness George also passed away in January of 1976. Anna is still residing in Thorsby and leading an active life in her



Passport of Anna Sasala.

community. She faithfully corresponds with her son, Joesph, his wife and all her grandchildren, who are living in Czechoslovakia.

HISTORY OF THE ALLAN SCOBIE FAMILY

related by Jack Scobie

My mother and dad came to the Telfordville district in the spring of 1925. They settled on the N.W. of 23-49-2 W5. At that time I was only a year and a half old. There were 7 children all together, 4



Jack Scobie Family.
L. to R. Jack, Grace, Pete, Norma, Nellie, Jenny and Bill on the lawn at the family gathering.

girls and 3 boys. Jenny took the most of her schooling at Empress, Alberta before we moved to Telfordville. Bill, Pete, Grace, Nellie, Norma and myself took our schooling at Port View School, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of our place.

We three boys helped our dad clear land after school was out for the summer. It was hard work, but over the years we managed to get it all cleared and broken up. The girls helped mother with work around the house and they always had a big garden to tend to. As they got older they took on jobs. I remember Nellie working for Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Samson in the late 1930s for \$8.00 a month.

There was always lots to do when harvest time rolled around. The crops were cut by horses pulling the binder. Then Bill, Pete and myself would do the

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stooking. Then came time for the threshing. It was hard work but lots of fun. The crew were up at 5 a.m. to feed the horses and curry them and then harness them so they would be ready to go to the field. Breakfast was at 6 a.m. and we would be out in the field by 7 a.m. We had a lunch at 9:30 a.m. and stopped at 12 noon for dinner. Or course we looked forward to the noon meals, everyone ate heartily and by 1 p.m. were back in the field. Lunch again at 3:30 p.m. and work until 7 p.m. After supper was over the horses were fed for the night and one was ready for a good night's rest. Beds were made up in the haylofts of barns on the hay or straw piled there. The wages were about \$5.00 a day in 1939 or '40.

For entertainment there were always dances in the Telfordville Hall and the first of July picnics with people coming from far and near. The annual agricultural fair which everyone looked forward to; the showing of livestock and vegetables that were grown, and the home baking was a day worth sharing with the neighbors and remembering.

When looking through a box my dad kept his papers in I came across a receipt for 2 cows he sold back in 1936. One weighed 1220 lbs. and sold for 13/4 cents a lb. The other was a 900 lb. heifer. It sold for 11/2 cents a lb, quite a difference, as in August, 1978, I sold cows that brought \$44.50 a cwt.

There were tax receipts too; one was dated 1927 and the taxes were \$33.60. What a difference from the taxes today! Basil Rose was the secretary-treasurer of our Municipal District of Pioneer No. 490. A lot of us can remember the hungry dry thirties as they were



called. We will recall the year 1978 for being so wet. I have kept a record of our rainfall since the snow left and we have had 26 4/10 inches of rain this season. The average rain has been generally about 18 to 21 inches. In September, 1978 we had 6 1/10 inches of rain in the month.

The years have been rewarding to all of us, with power, telephones and most people have running water in their homes.

Jenny, the oldest girl in our family married Charlie Armour and they have 4 children, Jean, Eleanor, Jim and Dorothy. Jenny and Charlie have retired and live at Hope B.C.

Bill married Nettie Mallard and they have 2 boys, Robert and Allan. After Nettie passed away he married Gunner Lindahl's oldest daughter Linda. They have a daughter Kristine. Bill, Linda and family live on an acreage they bought at Lindale.

Pete married Betty Blanchard from Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. They have 7 children, Mavea, Maxine, Wayne, Tom, Lorne, Norman and Noreen. Pete lives at Peace River. Grace married Art Oraas and they live at White Bear, Saskatchewan. They have three living children: Leni, George and Tracy. One child passed away in infancy.

Nellie married Henderson Burgess and they have 5 children; Allan, Georgina, Douglas, Harold and Jimmy. They live in Edmonton.

Norma married Lorne Mallard and they have one child, Beth. They live in Edmonton.

I married Irma Hauger in September of 1957 and we had 1 son Edgar. Irma passed away in December of 1958. I carried on with the farm work with the help of my nephew Harold Burgess. After he finished his school he came and stayed on the farm for 8 ½ years. He got married and lives with his wife Ginny and 2 children in Sherwood Park.

I was married in November of 1973 to Sally McDonnell, a widow with 3 daughters, Gayle, Linda and Karen. We now have 6 grandchildren and we live on the farm near Thorsby that Allan and Georgina Scobie settled on in 1925.

ALVIN AND HERTHA SCHEETZ

I (Alvin) was born at Michigan Center in 1940. Shortly after, my parents, Esther and Julius Scheetz. moved to the Thorsby district where I attended the Telfordville School. In those days the school was the heart of the community. Pie and box socials were fun-evenings for young and old. There was a barn in the schoolyard, since some of the students rode to school on their horses.

Our school was not a warm one. One winter morning the janitor didn't have a good fire going and when we got to school it was only 2 degrees Fahrenheit. Ernest Jablonski and I each got a big armful of dry wood which we fed to the stove. When the teacher arrived the stove was roaring and the pipes were red hot. She was quite excited so we tossed a couple of pails of water into the heater. Needless to say, the school was full of steam and the stove cracked.

In the summer we would go across the road at noon and climb trees. This patch of bush was quite popular, some of the older students would spend the entire day there. Of course their parents thought they were in school, and the teachers wondered if they were at home. In those days vitamins were supplied free to all students. Some of us didn't like them and I think we had a very healthy garbage pail. One spring day my older brother Ewald and I were walking home from school. The ditches were full of water. When we



"The Ole" Swimmin' Hole - Strawberry Creek.

got to a culvert a female companion asked "I wonder how deep that water is?" Ewald gave her a slight push so that she could find out first hand if it was above her head. It was, but she survived. This school was not very modern or well equipped but it offered the children a good basic education. The memories of those school days at Telfordville really stand out in my mind. Since grades 1 to 8 were taught in this school, my final schooling was at Thorsby where I completed grade 11. We rode on Ed Alton's bus to get to Thorsby. Some of the roads he travelled on were not very good, but being a very competent driver, he always managed to get us to school. After grade 11, I stayed home and worked on the family farm.

In 1965 I married Hertha Neuman who had also grown up in the Thorsby area. For the first 2 years after we were married, we lived with my parents. In 1967 we moved to our own farm which we had purchased from Mable Coughlin in 1966. They had bought it in 1927 from N.M. Ostryznik. We also bought the adjoining SE 29-49-1-W5 in 1963 from Jerry McKnee whose mother had bought it from Emma Driscol. This quarter had 100 acres of bush on it, which I cleared.

The fall we moved, there seemed to be no end to the things that needed doing. The place had been vacant for several years and the buildings were falling apart. There were no fences either. We milked 9 cows by hand. Our oldest son, Dale, who was born in 1966, would come to the barn with us. Although he was only $1\frac{1}{2}$ years old, he thought he should help, too. Dale would upset an old pail under our favorite Jersey and go through the motions of milking.

In 1968 our second son, Mark, was born. That fall a good portion of our crop stayed out. It was then that we decided to build a dairy barn, which housed 40 cows. In 1969, a wet fall again prevented us from harvesting some of our crop.

In 1970 our third child, a daughter Grace, was born. By now our dairy was operating at full capacity and kept both Hertha and me busy.

In 1975 we built a new house. After 8 years my garage, which we had lived in till then, was finally serving it's general purpose.

In 1977 our fourth child, Jeremy Leigh was born. We enjoy living in this community and these 13 years have been very happy ones indeed.

EDWARD SCHEETZ FAMILY

by Elaine Scheetz Chapman

In 1928 Edward Scheetz was born in Lithuania to Julius and Marie Scheetz. He came to Canada at the age of 9 months with his parents and sister in 1929. His schooling started at Sunnybrook, then at Michigan Centre and also Telfordville where he had to quit in grade 8. Edward had to work on the farm because he



Great Grandpa Julius Scheetz, Baby, Mitchell Scheetz, Grandpa, Edward Scheetz, Father Albin Scheetz.



Walter Klemky, Rose Marinoski, Edward Scheetz, Adeline Scheetz, Stanley Ollenburg, Erna Grohn, Arnold Scheetz, Evelyn Ollenburg. Front: Alvin Scheetz, Esther Klemky.



The Edward Scheetz Family.

Albin, Lorraine, Elaine, Leonard, Marie - 1965.

was the oldest boy. His wife Adeline was born in 1932 in the Fruitland area, to Andrew and Olga Klemky. Both families went to St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Thorsby where they were married in 1951.

Together they started to farm on their own, with 5 cows, 1 calf and some pigs. They lived on a farm rented by his dad, 1 mile from his dad's west of Thorsby. They had no machinery so Edward worked with his dad and brothers. The first car my parents, Edward and Adeline, had was a 1928 Model A Ford which beat walking.

In 1952 their first child, Albin, was born. In Jan. of 1954 my parents had a fire, although they didn't lose anything, there was water damage in the house. Also in 1954 a daughter, Lorraine, was born.

Things were going better and in 1954, they bought a one ton International truck. In the next year they bought some other machinery, their first combine in 1956, and in 1957 they bought a 1954 Chev car for there were getting to be too many to ride in the truck.

I, Elaine, was born in 1957. In 1958 my parents bought the Ray Jablonski farm with the help of Joe Martin. After a lot of hard work was done to the house and barn, they moved in 2 weeks before Christmas in 1960. This was the farm where Tom Jablonski raised his family (N½ 27-49-1 W5). There was fencing to do for they had 30 head of cattle at this time. They got power in 1960 when they moved. The phone came in 1961 in the spring, and that fall another son Leonard came along. They thought they had a perfect family, two boys and two girls but not so, for in 1963 a daughter Marie was born to complete the family.

In 1967 my parents went on their first trip to B.C., made possible by my grandmother who came to stay with the family. They were gone for 6 days. In the spring of 1971 they bought a new Ford car and that

summer took a second trip to B.C. The 4 younger children got to go, while Albin stayed home to look after the place and do the chores. Gone 4 days. "Wow!" After that they took a few days off every year.

There was a wedding in 1972. Albin was married in winter to Judy Hidson, they have 2 children, Mitchell 6 yrs. old and Erin who is one. A daughter Wanda died at 9 months. They live in Calmar. Albin works for Alberta Wheat Pool in Leduc.

In July of 1972, Adeline and Edward (my parents) took an airplane ride to Detroit. In the fall of 1972 Lorraine was married to Bobby Wasieczko. They have 3 children Steven (5), Helen (4), and Nadine (2). They live on a farm about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of Thorsby. Bobby also works on oil wells.

In 1974 (I), Elaine, was married to David Chapman. We had the 1977 Christmas baby, Roxanne. We live on a farm near Sunnybrook; David works for the County of Leduc.

In 1976 (my parents) Edward and Adeline along with Arnold and Rose Nieman took a three-week trip by car. They travelled through Canada to Niagara Falls and came back through the States.

Their 2 youngest children (Leonard and Marie) are still at home and attending school at Thorsby. The family farms $3\frac{1}{2}$ quarters of land with a good line of machinery, with tractors, trucks, car, and combine and all the things that go with farming. They have increased their cattle to about 175 head. The family are members of St. Peters Lutheran Church in Leduc.

THE FRED AND BETTY SMITH FAMILY

Charles Frederick was born in Edmonton on Oct.



Fred, Betty, Heather, Rita, Lily, Ivan, Beverly, Beatrice, Rodney, Harvey and Debbie.

3, 1916. He lived near there with his parents Charles Wesley and Laura Louise Smith until he was about 3 years old. They moved to the Wilton Park area on a farm owned by Mr. Barker. This is where Fred started school. In 1926 they moved to the Thorsby district. There was no town at that time, so Fred went to school at Telfordville, then Fruitland. After the town of Thorsby started up and the new school was built, the Smith children went there to school.

The family consisted of 4 boys and 3 girls. As a boy Fred had to help with chores before and after school. They drove a horse and buggy or sleigh, and hauled the milk to the cheese factory. Dr. Hankin was the first doctor and Fred was his first tonsil patient.

Fred always liked horses so in later years there were horses around for his own children and grandchildren to ride. Fred was fond of sports and he played ball, skated, etc. In order to have a skating rink he helped haul water in barrels to make the ice. There the neighbor boys, Melins, Jablonskis, Shauers, Martins and Smiths would gather to play hockey. Fred also played baseball with the Telfordville team. Good times were had at the local picnics where they had ball games, races for all ages, horse shoes, and tug-o-war. Most of all there was lots of visiting. Parties were held in homes and what good times we all had dancing or playing games or cards.

Fred worked in a lumber camp. He worked in Thorsby for Jack Arthur, the dray man. One year the feed got snowed under so most of the winter Fred was busy with his sorrel team digging bundles out of the snow and hauling them for other farmers.

In 1942 Fred married Elizabeth (Betty) May Scobie of the Sunnybrook district. They worked on the farm for Mr. Coughlin, then rented Mr. C.M. Hale's farm. They spent a winter in the Charley Snider buildings. They finally bought a quarter and a fraction of 33-50- W5 from the C.P.R. near Genesee. They moved their belongings in a hay rack leading 4 cows behind. Bud Scobie drove the wagon. Fred herded the sheep. The roads were very bad and they could hardly make it over one hill. It took all day to go about 16 miles. Lyle was the baby - about a year old. It was "Good Friday" and a nice day. The baby slept in his crib most of the way.

The people that rented the farm the year beforehand had used the house for a granary. There was still grain in it when Fred and Betty got there, so their bed was set up in the grain until they could get it cleaned out. The house was made of logs so it was very cold in the winter, but the bed bugs seemed to thrive whether it was hot or cold. It was a real blessing when D.D.T. came on the market. When they got enough money they had the house plastered inside.

The road was just a bush trail with some corduroy. Fred covered it with dirt making it passable for a car to travel on in dry weather. It was a few years before they got a car. Travelling was done with horses and wagon or sleigh. They were in style when they got a democrat and a team of light horses to drive. The one was balky,

so Fred would lead them down the road and Betty would drive 'til they were going good, then Fred would jump in the democrat and Betty would hop out the back.

There was no well that had water in it so the stock had to be taken about ½ mile across the open field down quite a steep bank to a spring to get water. Fred hauled water in cream cans for the house at the same time. A dam was built across a draw near the buildings. This was done with 4 horse outfits and scrapers. This gave the Smiths water for the stock. Eventually they had a good well drilled but a long way from the house. It was the third hole. Part of the time the water was hauled to the house in cream cans in the kids' wagon pulled by the shetland pony (Peanut).

Land had to be cleared; the brushing was done by hand (axe and grub hoe). The breaking was done with horses, then the field was worked with a root harrow. Fred used a hay rake to windrow the roots. On one occasion the roots were pushed into piles with a wooden hay sweep. Fred worked with Fred Gellert quite a lot when they were working new fields. They would change horses at noon and let the others rest, changing in the late afternoon again. When they lived at Genesee, 9 more children were born. About 1955 they bought a half section known as 11-48-2-W5 in the Sunnybrook area. In 1957 they moved there, where they farmed for 7 years. While living there they got the telephone in, also Calgary Power. What a happy time; no more lamps to fill and clean! Then came T.V. which they all enjoyed very much. Fred got the urge to look for more land which he found in the Meanook area. He bought 6 quarters from the Ted Rienholt family. In 1964 they moved again. What a day! Fred was sick in the Breton hospital so the children and Betty moved with the help of kind neighbors and their trucks. They moved the household goods, sheep, chickens, and pigs, and also a tractor. Frank Dulaska and Eugene (from Athabasca) came with 2 big trucks for the cows. That was the longest day of Betty's life. Fred spent a month in the hospital, then moved the machinery. The neighbors at Meanook came one day with 16 tractors and put the crop in for Fred. A year later Fred had an ulcer operation and has been quite well since. He is an active member of Unifarm and Dairy Pool, and also a member of Colinton Senior Citizens' Club.

Fred started sheep shearing about 1943. He used a hand shear. He didn't need much equipment, his only means of travel was by horseback. He rode many miles to shear sheep for several years. The roads got better so he got a truck and a motor-driven sheep clipper. At 61 years, in 1978 he is still shearing. He uses a lister sheep clipper also motor driven. His equipment consists of a platform to shear on, wired-top wool-tying table, a wool bagging frame and 2 clippers. His work takes him to almost all areas north and west of Edmonton, and also into B.C. He is away, off and on, for about 3 months each spring. Fred has hired to demonstrate shearing at the Edmonton Klondike



Hooking up electricity.

Days. He was also invited to shear at the Athabasca Elementary School. It was a real thrill for the children to have a real live sheep on the stage at school. The Smiths were invited to Amber Valley to put on a wool display when they were celebrating International Women's Year.

The family put a float in the Athabasca parade in 1976 called "Lamb to Man". It displayed wool. Fred was shearing sheep, Debbie was spinning, Heather was carding, Betty was knitting, and grandaughter Shelley Dubie was Little Bo Peep, holding the shepherd's crook. The float took first prize. Heather put a wool display in the science fair at the Elementary school. Fred, Betty, and Gail went along to help her out. Fred was spinning, Heather and Gail carding, and Betty was knitting. The other children at school found it very interesting. Fred does all the spinning for the family's socks and mitts.

Betty, Elizabeth May Scobie was born on January 16, 1920 at Empress, Alberta. She moved with her parents William and Jessie Scobie to the Telfordville-Sunnybrook district when she was 5 years old. She went to school at Falconer school (later changed to Sunnybrook) walking 4 miles through the bush trails. The lunch pails were put around the big heater to thaw the sandwiches before noon. One year there were 52 pupils and only 1 teacher.

Betty is now a member of the MeanookWomen's Institute and has served several terms as secretary. Betty has always been active in 4H helping out whenever she could. In 1977 the Athabasca Beef Club received some money as a memorial for David Prgybilla, a 4H member who was killed in a highway accident. The money was put towards a trophy for an outstanding 4H parent. Betty won the tophy for 1977.

Fred and Betty's family consisted of 4 boys and 10 girls. Rita married Bernard Krawiec of St. Francis and

they live at Swan Hills. They have 5 children; Elizabeth, Thomas, Joan, Darrell and Darren (twins). Shirley married Donald Dubie of Meanook. They have 2 children; Shelley and Troy. Gail married Nick Loziak of Narrow Lake and they have 2 children; Nicole and David. Lily married Morris Wasieczko of Thorsby. They live at For Far. They have 4 children; Vicky, Morris Jr., Gilbert and Virginia. Ivan married Linda Pauquette of Meanook. They live at Meadow View. They have 2 children; Carrie and Nathon. Beatrice married Jim Moore of Sunnybrook and they have 1 daughter Carol. Beverly married Emile Kruenchuk of For Far and they live in Colinton. They have 4 children; Tony, Tammy, Anita and Sandra. Debra married Frank Key of Flatbush and they live in Edmonton and have 1 daughter Billie-Jo. Rodney, Harvey, Irma, and Heather are still not married.

Lyle, the first-born, died when he was 12 years old. He had spinal meningitis when he was a baby which left him crippled. Brenda, the youngest, died when she was 8 years old in a snowmobile accident. The Meanook Women's Institute liked her so well they made a plaque available in memory of her at the Elementary school (Athabasca). Grade 3 is the only grade that competes to get their name on the plaque.

With a big family there weren't too many dull moments but we all had a good life and enjoyed living at Thorsby, Genesee, Sunnybrook, and Warburg areas, and now the Meanook-Athabasca area.

ALEX WURBAN AND FAMILY

by Millie Kelsey

Alex married Frances Brozny, daughter of Harry and Katie Brozny of Thorsby, on Dec. 18, 1953.

For several years prior to his marriage, Alex was in the army. Then he joined the navy in 1952. He was with the navy until he retired in August, 1978.

They had 8 children; Elaine born May 4, 1954, Ellen born Sept. 8, 1955, Glen born Aug. 11, 1956, Debby born Sept. 2, 1957, Cindy born March 12, 1960, Eddy born Feb. 22, 1963, Carrol born July 19, 1965, and Betty born Sept. 10, 1968.

Elaine is married to Jim Faines and they have 2



Alex and Frances Wurban with oldest daughter, Elaine, in Victoria, B.C.



Alex Wurban Family. (Missing Betty), L. to R. Cindy, Debby, Glen, Elaine, Ellen. Front Row: Eddy and Carrol.

sons. Ellen is married to Wayne Forsey and they have 1 son.

At present, Alex and Frances are living in Chiliwack, B.C., with their younger children.

DANIEL WURBAN AND FAMILY

by Millie Kelsey

Grandparents Mike and Martha Wurban and family came to Canada from Austria when Father was 7 years old. There were 4 boys, Daniel, Steve, John and William, and 2 girls, Annie and Katheleen. They lived in the Calmar area.

Daniel, better known as Dan, married Nancy Dobko, daughter of Constantine (Kost) and Annie Dobko in January, 1916. Nancy was the only girl with 6 brothers; Peter, John, Metro, William, Fred and Alex. They lived in the Rabbit Hill district, and later moved to the Wilton Park district.

Dan and Nancy moved to a homestead southwest of Thorsby (approximately 1 mile east of Morrowdale School) where their first son, Mike, was born on January 11, 1917. They sold that farm and moved back to Calmar, this time $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west on the south side of the road. A few of the buildings that he built are still



Daniel and Nancy Wurban - 1950.



Daniel Wurbans home in Thorsby. L. to R. Millie Kelsey, Diana Godkin, Daniel Wurban, Shirley Fortier, Eva Gritzfeldt, daughters of Dan.

standing. Two children were born there; John on May 11, 1918, and Eva on September 4, 1922. They moved to a farm at Wilton Park, 5 miles north, near the North Saskatchewan River. Three children were born there: Steve on March 14, 1923; Millie on March 28, 1926; and Alex on December 2, 1928. When Alex was the smallest child, they bought the farms near Telfordville, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north and 3 miles west of Thorsby, Sec. 31-49-1-W5., in 1930 still owning the farm in Wilton Park.

Dan and Nancy lived in a temporary two-room house while their new four-bedroom house was being built. The next child, Fred, born on August 8, 1930, was delivered by Dr. Hankin of Thorsby. Their new home, built by Dan and one hired carpenter (name unknown), was finished in 1931. This house is still in use after some 48 years. The temporary house was then used as a chicken house. Then Lawrence was born on March 29, 1935. Shirley, born on November 27, 1937 and Diana born on September 11, 1941, were the only 2 children born in the hospital in Edmonton. The Wurban children were educated at various schools, these being Wilton Park, Telfordville, Morrowdale, and Thorsby.

Mike, being the eldest son, helped his father a great deal while building and starting out. Other children helped as soon as they were able to. Farming was done with horses. A rope on a pulley was used for pulling water from a hand-dug well for livestock and household use. Horse and buggy or horse and wagon were means of transportation. Later, tractors, tractor-drawn machinery and vehicles came into the picture. As soon as the eldest son, Mike, was able to drive, they got their first car. From then on it was easier on the horse and buggy. Dan never did learn to drive a vehicle. The only time I saw him drive was when Mike parked the car. Father got behind the wheel and started driving. That was just fine until he realized he had to stop before he got to the coal shed. He hung on to the steering wheel and yelled "Whoa! Whoa!" That didn't help but the coal shed stopped the car. No damage was done except to his pride. But he was always proud of driving his horses. He also took pride in being the family shoemaker, repairing shoes even for his grandchildren.

Hay was cut with a horse-drawn mower, raked, and then coiled. It was forked onto a hayrack and wagon, hauled in, and stacked. In the winter, a hay knife was used to cut the hay and it was forked into mangers for the livestock.

Mike and his father ran a threshing crew and threshed for the farmers in the district. Dan was always a very goodSamaritan and helped anyone who needed help if they got stuck or stranded. If necessary, they could spend the night.

Wood and coal stoves were the only source of heat. Nancy made the best of what she had and put on good meals for her family. She always raised a good garden and worked in the fields, too. Later, the girls helped with the cooking, cleaning, and chores while the boys helped their father in the fields. Chores included milking 20 or more cows by hand and feeding large numbers of hogs, turkeys and chickens and smaller flocks of geese and ducks. Cream was separated and sold to creameries, and butter was churned at home for own use.

Home-made soap made from lard and lye, cooled and cut into bars was used for laundry soap. Laundry soap in bars could also be bought and later powdered soap was bought. Clothes were washed in a tub with a scrub board and hung on a line to dry. Three sadirons were put on the wood and coal stove to heat. Sadirons were used in rotation to iron clothes. There were no perma-press clothes in those days. Rainwater was caught in barrels under eaves for washing clothes and hair. This was done because the well water was hard. Also during the drier seasons, water was carried from the creek just east of the house, for washing clothes.

During the war, ration coupons were used for some foods such as; sugar, coffee, and tea. Even though our family was big, it wasn't too inconvenient.

For entertainment, Dan and Nancy attended many dances and house gatherings, enjoyed big weddings, and visited friends, neighbors, and relatives.

Nancy passed away on February 26, 1958 at the age of 59. After her passing, Dan stayed on the farm with his 2 sons, Fred and Lawrence. Sometime later, Lawrence married and moved to the N.E. quarter and set up farming. It wasn't until Fred married and had a family of 3 that Dan decided it was time to give up the



Fred Wurban and Daniel Wurban. Father and Son farm team.

hard work. He retired and moved to Thorsby in the spring of 1971, where he previously had purchased a small house and lot next to the cafe on Hankin Street. His words were "Now Fred can continue farming." He put in a bathroom and added a living room and bedroom on to the little one-room house. He put in plumbing, but carried his drinking water from a well nearby for cooking and drinking because he always liked fresh well water. Dad did his own cooking and housekeeping. I would go to town and help out with laundry and some house cleaning. As his health failed, I would go in more often to make him as comfortable as possible. All his children and grandchildren visited with him. He passed away on July 16, 1973. It was Dan's wish for his youngest daughter, Diana, to have the house and lot in Thorsby.

Daniel and Nancy Wurban received their Senior Citizen Award at the Golden Jubilee at Wizard Lake, Alberta, 1905-1955.

FRED WURBAN FAMILY

by Millie Kelsey

Fred married Eva Warnke, daughter of Paul and



Fred and Eva Wurban, at Kelsey home.

Peggy Warnke of Sunnybrook, on Aug. 8, 1964. They live on the home place of Daniel Wurban. Fred has farmed there ever since he was a child. He farms and works for the N.A.D.P. in Thorsby.

They have 4 children; Brian born June 7, 1965, twins Paul and Paulene born May 23, 1966, and Liza born August 25, 1973.

MR. & MRS. HENRY JOHN WURBAN

by daughter Dorothy Wurban Leeder

Dad was born 1½ miles west of Calmar on May 11, 1918 and lived there for one year. Then his parents and his brother Mike moved to the Wilton Park district and lived there until John was 9. Grandpa Wurban had bought a farm SE -31-49-1 W5 in the Telfordville district in 1919 and in 1927 Dad moved



Sept. 1976
L. to R. John, Angela, Douglas, Dorothy, Gordon and Chester Wurban.
House in background where Dorothy was born.

there. He attended school in Wilton Park and Telfordville.

In 1950, he met Angela Blanch Lutczsyn the oldest daughter of Joseph and Annie Lutczsyn of Sunnybrook. She was working out at that time. They were married on July 4, 1952. The wedding took place at his parent's home (Dan and Nancy Wurban) and they lived in their home for about 8 months. Dad had purchased a farm in 1933 NW 31-49-1-W5, and they moved onto it and were near Telfordville.

On August 31, 1953, their first son was born, Henry Joseph Daniel. He died from an illness on July 2, 1972.

I was born on August 7, 1954 at home and they named me Dorothy Nancy. Mom and Dad said it was very wet and the bridge over the creek beside my grandfather's place was out so Mom couldn't go away.

December 15, 1960 my brother Douglas Russell was born. He is employed now but lives with our parents in Warburg.

On June 19, 1964 another brother arrived and they named him Chester Kost. He is still at home going to school in Warburg. The baby of the family was born July 10, 1971, Gordon Lyle, and he goes to school in Warburg also.

Dad an Mom lived and worked on their farm until Sept. 1976 when they held an auction sale and moved into Warburg.

I married Fredrick James Leeder July 28, 1973. He was the second child of Raymond and Anne Leeder of the Strawberry district. Fredrick (Fred) attended Strawberry school up to grade 4 then went to Thorsby for grades 5 through 10. His father died in August 1964 when Fred was 12 years old.

The first four months of our marriage we lived in Thorsby but didn't like living in town. We found a house on the former Ted Schubert farm and moved into it. We were then back in the Strawberry district, and lived in the house until September 1976. Then we moved again to our own farm NE 18-50-1 W5 and settled down.

This quarter of land was homesteaded by Fred's



John & Angela Wurban with first grandson Henry Raymond Leeder.

grandfather Arthur James Huggett. He filed on it in 1906 and lived on it until his death in 1955.

We have 3 beautiful children: Angela Ann born Jan. 23, 1974. Tracy Ophelia born Jan. 9, 1976 and one son Henry Raymond born April 1, 1978.

Fred is employed with Bilar's Garage in Thorsby. He has his Certificate in Motor Mechanics and does a little farming in his spare time.

LAWRENCE WURBAN FAMILY

by Millie Kelsey

Lawrence married Artis Lange, daughter of Katie Lange Postnikiff, on July 29, 1961. They live on the



Picture on Lawrence Wurban Farm. Lawrence, Diana Godkin, Artis (back row). Nancy, Wayne, Kelvin and Kathy (front row).

N.E. 31-49-1-W5, one of the home quarters. They lived in a house that was moved on and added on to. They then purchased a house trailer and now have modern conveniences. Besides farming, Lawrence works for the N.A.D.P. in Thorsby.

They have 4 children; Nancy born June 2, 1964, Kelvin born Sept. 13, 1965, Wayne born on Oct. 18, 1966, and Kathy born on January 31, 1968.

STEVE WURBAN FAMILY

by Millie Kelsey

Steve married Elsa Guldbrandsen, daughter of Olav and Anna Guldbrandsen of Buck Creek, Alberta, on July 16, 1951. They moved to a raw quarter of land southwest of Sunnybrook, S.E. 29-49-1-W5.

Steve worked hard, clearing land and improving the farm. He raised his family in a one-room house, later another room was added, without modern conveniences. But they managed. Now they have a three-bedroom home with modern conveniences.



Wedding of Kenneth and Gloria Wurban.
L. to R. Steve Wurban's three youngest, Barbara, Doreen and Daniel,
Steve and Elsa Wurban, Mr. & Mrs. Felske, Kenneth and Gloria.
Second Bridesmaid, Rosie Foster (nee Wurban). Back Row: First
Bestman, Gerald Wurban.

Steve farms and works for the Dept. of Highways.

They have 8 children: Lloyd born on May 17, 1950; Rosie born July 30, 1952; Lillian born Feb. 5, 1956; Kenneth born Jan. 3, 1958; Gerald born Aug. 29, 1961; Barbara born April, 1969; Doreen born on Nov. 27, 1970; and Daniel born July 4, 1972.

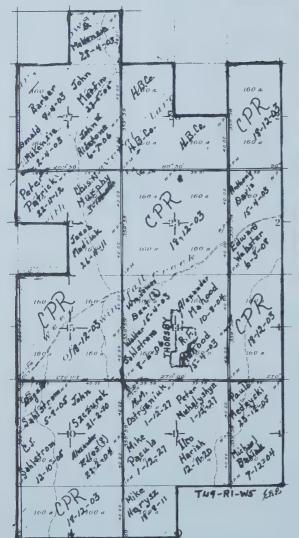
Lloyd has a girl, Rochele, and a boy, Martin. Lillian and her daughter Tammie live in Victoria, B.C. Rosie married Garry Foster on Jan. 28, 1971 and they have 3 boys, Steven, Mickel, Trevor, and 1 girl, Trina. They have made their home in the Buck Lake district. Kenneth married Gloria Felske on Sept. 3, 1976, and they have a daughter, Theresa. They make their home in the Calmar district.

Thorsby

School Pistrict No. 4462

January 20, 1930







First Thorsby School built in 1930.

The First Homesteaders & Grants to the CPR

The Information on this Map Courtesy of: Alberta Prov. Archives and Alberta Gov't Map Division



THOR LORE

written by Anna Wickstrom in 1978.

According to Scandinavian mythology, Thor was god of thunder, war and physical strength. He was known as the friend of all mankind, because he kept the giants from destroying the earth. This he was able to accomplish with the aid of his 3 magic possessions: a large, heavy, red-hot hammer, which, when thrown, came back to his hand; a belt, which, when it encircled his waist, doubled his strength; and a pair of iron gloves, which, when put on, made it possible for him to hold and to throw the red-hot hammer.

When Thor travelled across the sky in his chariot, drawn by a pair of he-goats, lightning flashed from his hammer. When he threw it at the giants, there was loud thunder.

People and places in Scandinavian countries were sometimes named in honor of the god Thor.

HOW THORSBY WAS NAMED

written by Anna Wickstrom in 1978.

Old-timers claim that in the early part of the 20th century, 3 Swedish brothers, August, Charles and Gustav Sahlstrom, built a log cabin a short distance southwest of what is now the village of Thorsby. That area was sparsely settled at that time, but when more people came, August started a small store and post office in the cabin. He named the post office "Thorsby", (meaning Thors-town) after his home town in Sweden. In that country, the town of that

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name is actually spelled "Torsby".

The official record of "Change of Postmasters," which we have obtained from "Alberta Postal District", shows that August Sahlstrom was indeed the first postmaster when Thorsby Post Office was established on "March 25, 1908, on NW 10-49-1 W5 now the property of Herb Knopp.

If you examine the document printed below, you will see that August and Charles took turns at operating the post office there for 11 yrs. 5 mo. When the location was changed to "S.E. 15-49-1 W5th M. on Dec.15, 1919", brother Gustav took over as Postmaster for over 3½ yrs. After 8 mo. without a post office, it was opened again by Jacob Maduik on Feb. 20, 1924, and continued until he retired 1 yr. 5 mo. later. There was no post office after that for 4½ yrs. It was in this interval that Thorsby became a hamlet in April of 1929.

When John Rolston began operating the Post Office on Jan. 1, 1930 in the new building on mainstreet, the name "Thorsby" was retained.

Mrs. C.M. Hale remembers that when August Sahlstrom visited Thorsby at some time in the mid-thirties, he remarked that he was proud that the hamlet he had named was progressing so rapidly.

This expansion continued and on Dec. 31, 1949, Thorsby was incorporated as a village.

A TRIBUTE TO MY PARENTS, THE BERT BARAGERS

by Bernard Barager

My dad Bert Barager (one of a family of 14 children; 7 girls, 7 boys) was born in Rounthwaite, Manitoba. His grandparents had come from Pennsylvannia, U.S.A. with the United Empire Loyalists and settled in Ontario. His dad later moved to Rounthwaite, Manitoba and farmed there. At the age of 19 he joined up to go to the Boer War. He was one picked from 400 to break horses for the army. While serving in the army he received a medal for bravery.

When he returned home he got a number of acres of farm land (through the Boer War Script) at Arcola, Saskatchewan. Here he met my mother Daisy Phipps, who was born in the County of York, District of Leeds, England and came to Canada with her family when she was about one year old. She was one of a family of 10 (5 boys, 5 girls). Her folks settled in Grand Valley, Ontario. My sister Bertie visited this town 3 years ago and found it still the way her mother described it. The old home was still standing and there were people living in it. As a young woman, mother joined her sister in Arcola and became a dressmaker and milliner.

Dad and mother were married in the Church of England, Arcola, Saskatchewan, on the 11th of July, 1906, and made their home on Dad's farm. Two girls were born to them here, Louise in August, 1907, and Maud in September, 1908. Due to the drought and a big prairie fire that wiped him out, Dad decided to become a railroader and moved to Hardisty, Alberta in 1910. In February, 1911, Bertie was born. A few days before this, Louise and Maud had been to a birthday party for a one year old boy. When they came home, Louise expressed her desire for a brother. When asked what she would call him she said "Bert, like Papa". A few days later when she got up and saw Bertie on the midwife's knee, she ran into the bedroom and said, "Mama get up quick, little Bert is in the kitchen".

In April, 1913, I was born. Mother was a very independent woman and would not ask for help from anyone. In the middle of the night, when she knew she was going to usher me into the world, Dadwas at work. She woke $6\frac{1}{2}$ year old Louise, gave her a stick of wood and sent her for the midwife who lived 2 blocks away. She was to hammer on the door with wood till she answered. Later, when someone asked Louise if she wasn't frightened, she said, "No, Mamma told me God would take care of me."

For awhile they had a small store for which mother had most of the responsibility. After I was born, Dad decided he should have a farm and took up a homestead 5 miles out of Hardisty. The farm was very hilly and not very productive but a beautiful spot. Mother however, grew a wonderful garden and in the fall, a wagon load of produce would be taken into Hardisty and sold from door to door. Wild fruit was plentiful, as were wild chickens and ducks, and Dad was a good shot.

In the winter we moved into town so the girls could attend school, otherwise in the spring and fall they boarded in town. Also, Dad was closer to his work.

A special mention should be made of our first cow "Jeff", named after the man from whom we bought her. She was one from a big dairy herd and produced a terrific amount of milk, The men taking care of her had been careless and let her udder get caked. Jeff told Dad he could take her, and if he could save her udder he could buy her cheap. If not, he would take her back. Mother worked hard with the cow's udder and saved 3 teats. She supplied us with all our dairy needs for many years, plus some left over in summer months that was sold to neighbors. We still had her when we moved to Telfordville. One winter we left her at Telfordville as we had moved to Leduc for the winter. She died and we children said she died of a broken heart because we left her behind.

In December, 1915, Vivien was born (13 pounds at birth) and in December, 1917, Billy was born. In early spring of 1919, Dad's railroading took him to Mirror, so he sold his homestead and we moved there. Leeson was born in December of that year.

In the spring of 1920, Dad decided to turn all farmer and bought a farm 10 miles south of Alliance. We came with our belongings by railroad to Castor

and then drove the 18 miles north to our farm. Mother and the 3 younger ones rode in the buggy tied behind the wagon, with Jeff tied to the wheel. We 4 older ones walked most of the time, except when the water was too high on the road, then we would climb on the loads. Sometimes the water was so high it would come into the buggy. It took us from early morning till evening to drive that 18 miles.

Times were very hard for us while we lived on this farm, due mostly to dry weather. Even the garden did not produce very good. We had chickens but they didn't lay in the cold weather. Nearly always at least one cow would be milking.

Mother was a very good cook and could think of more ways of stretching a little meat than anyone I ever knew. Her bread and cinnamon buns made a name for themselves throughout the country. She



Mrs. Barager holding Grandson dressed in the handmade Christening Dress she made for her first baby in 1907. All but one child was christened in this dress, also many of the Grandchildren. The dress is now in possession of Irene Denchikoff.

made all our clothes, from underwear to coats and caps. Some were from flour sacks and some were made from used clothing sent to us. The girls told me it was nothing for them to wake up in the middle of the night and hear the sewing machine still running.

Here Dad did whatever work he could find, breaking horses, and farm work such as plowing, stooking and threshing. We had around 3 miles to walk to school, so footwear was a big problem. In

warm weather we all ran barefoot.

In March, 1922, Russel was born, the first one to be born away from home. Due to bad roads and being so far away from a doctor, Dad took Mother to the Castor hospital a month ahead of time. That fall of 1923, Daddecided he would have to do something else to keep such a large family, so he went to Edmonton and again started railroading. Louise and Maud went too as soon as he was settled. They wanted to further their schooling, as they had finished grade 8. In the spring of 1924, he came home and moved the rest of us, along with the machinery and livestock. We drove to Alliance and came by rail to Edmonton. We lived on a farm at Edmonton and farmed 1 year.

No matter where we lived, recreation was about the same, visiting our neighbors and having them visit us. The grownups talked while we children played various games. We always stayed for a meal and our visitors always had a meal with us. Each summer there was a picnic (now called a Sports Day.) We kids were fast runners so we always got a little prize money which didn't take long to spend. There would be a Sunday school picnic and everyone put their lunch together and there would be homemade ice cream. This was nearly always at a lake so we could go swimming. There would be races and prizes. Dad was a great entertainer and when we lived at Alliance he was always called on to sing at the school-house dances. Here also he helped to put on plays and took part in many debates. In Hardisty he played on the hockey team but after that there was no opportunity for him to play. He also played football when he was a young man. Mother had a beautiful soprano voice but never sang in public except in the church choir. She always rocked and sang the babies to sleep and whistled all the time she worked.

Christmas was the big event of the year. For weeks we practised for the Christmas concert and we kids had many parts. Some of us were good singers, some good at reciting and we were all good actors. We always received a gift from the teacher and a bag of treats which the school board supplied. There would be a big tree and at the end of the program the candles would be lit and Santa Claus would come. Dad made the best Santa Claus I ever saw. At home we all hung up our stockings and Santa always filled them. Some years I wonder how our parents managed to do this. Sometimes we would get the only orange we had all year. Santa always put up the tree and trimmed it after we were in bed. Christmas dinner, I'm sure, was chicken with dressing. We always had plum pudding, Christmas cake, and gingerbread men. If we were living where there was a church, some of us always went on Christmas morning.

Easter was the one other big day. The bunny rabbit always left eggs hidden outside, and what fun we had finding them! We would always have eggs for Easter dinner with scalloped potatoes. Eggs would be a treat as we never had any in winter. Again we went to church if there was one to go to.



Mr. and Mrs. Bert Barager. Taken in the fall of 1951.

My folks were Anglicans and Mother never missed church (Dad worked nights and would be asleep in the morning). When there was one to go to, we children attended Sunday school and when there wasn't one, Mother would get Sunday school by mail and teach us at home.

In 1925, Dad decided to go farming again and bought land in the Telfordville district (later to become Thorsby). The trip from Edmonton to Telfordville was made with horses and wagons. The roads were bad and it took about 22 hours.

My mother had a hard life here but continued to whistle and sing as she carried on. Dad remained in Edmonton railroading, later going to Hanna and Drumheller. I was the man of the farm from the age of 13 until I was about 20. At this time I rented land of my own. The work was even harder here because of the land clearing. Mother and I did a lot of this ourselves. The younger boys helped but left home early and all 3 were in the armed forces and went overseas.

Living conditions were much the same as other places we lived; good gardens, wild fruit and some wild chickens. The rabbits were no good except for the skins, which brough very little. We saw the railroad come through and the building of the new town. Thorsby became our town and made things a lot easier for us. Then the depression years came and with it, another hard struggle to exist.

Along with her own work, Mother was always a helpful neighbor. She delivered many a baby when Dr. Hankin could not be reached in time. She was known as Granny Barager to all the younger children around. She was also nurse at many of her own grandchildren's births.

Dad retired from railroading in 1943 and lived on the farm for about 2 years. After this, they moved around for awhile and then settled in Warburg, where



L. to R. Leeson Barager, Louise Gullason, Maud Decoursey, Vivian Bentley, Bertie Ruff, Bernard Barager. Sept. 21, 1973.

Dad passed away in 1953. Mother lived in various places, sometimes with her daughters in B.C., and a number of years in a little house on my farm in Thorsby. She also spent some time in Warburg. Her last few months were in Parkland Nursing Home in Leduc. We always said she was made of iron. She survived a bad case of typhoid, torn knee ligaments, 2 broken thighs, a heart condition and a cancer operation at the age of 77. She passed away in 1967 at 85

At the time of this writing, Louise (Mrs. Bill Gullason) is in a nursing home in Oliver, B.C. with arthritis. Maud (Mrs. W. Decoursey) still helps her husband Duke, with his mobile home business and lives in Squamish B.C. Bertie (Mrs. Sam Ruff) is retired and lives in Leduc. I, Bernard Barager, am retired and living in Thorsby. Vivien (Mrs. Bently) lives in a senior citizen's apartment in Oliver B.C. Billy is deceased. Leeson Barager is still trucking and farming in Warburg. Russel Barager is a photographer and right now is working in and around Edmonton.

BERNARD AND IDA BARAGER

as related by themselves

George Bernard Barager was born in Hardisty, Alberta in 1913 to James Albert (Bert) and Daisy (Phipps) Barager. He is the oldest son in a family of 8 children - 4 boys and 4 girls. His father worked on the railroad so the family moved around a lot. In fact they moved 6 times in 5 years at one point in their lives.

Bernard moved with his family to the Telfordville area in 1925 and went to the Telfordville school for about 1 year. Because his father was away working most of the time, Bernard had to quit school to work at home. He had to supply the wood and water for the house, also feed and water for the livestock. When he was a little older, he also dug coal out of the banks of the Strawberry Creek for winter fuel for the house.

Ida was born in Alsask, Saskatchewan in 1914 to Edward Lorne and Sarah Jane (Henderson) Burgess. She is the youngest daughter in a family of 8 - 4 boys and 4 girls. Because of the drought in the southern Alberta prairies, many families moved from the Empress area farther north where many of them settled in the Thorsby area.

In 1926 after about 6 years of drought, Ida's family moved also. There were no buildings as yet on the site that is now Thorsby until 1929. Ida was one of the people who witnessed the first tent to be set up.

Edward Burgess was a plasterer by trade. He lathed and plastered the Thorsby Hotel. Sam Ruff also helped by mixing the plaster in a mortar box with a hoe and carrying it in a hod on his shoulder to Edward. Sam was later to become Bernard's brother-in-law when he married his sister Bertie.

In 1930 Bernard Barager met Ida Burgess at a dance in Thorsby and in May 1935 they were married.



The Bernard Barager Family
Standing: Doris, Lorne, Gorden and Irene. Sitting: Bernard and Ida
Barager.

On one occasion when Bernard was courting Ida, she had made a sponge cake for lunch. While she was out of the room, her youngest brother Glover put 16 teaspoons criss-cross into the cake. When the table was set for lunch nobody knew where the teaspoons had disappeared until Ida tried to cut the cake. Then the boys roared with laughter. At the time Ida just could not see the joke for her embarrasment.

After their marriage they lived on the Barager farm 4 miles west of Thorsby. Three of their children, Lorne in 1937; Gordon in 1940 and Doris in 1941, were born in the Burgess Hospital in Thorsby which was run by Ida's mother and Dr. Hankin. In 1941 the hospital closed and in 1943 Bernard and Ida took over the Burgess farm. That same year Irene was born.

At an early age Lorne was running away with his dog or doing something else, usually destructive. He would throw all the dishes, he could reach, on the floor and even after Ida put them at the back of the cupboard, he would push the table over and get the rest of them. Finally Ida nailed the table to the floor. After Gordon was old enough for him to play with Lorne was a very different boy. Lorne took all his schooling in Thorsby and was active in all sports. After finishing his grade 11, he started his apprenticeship as an electrician. Four years later he became a journeyman electrician.

In August 1960 Lorne married Inga Meyer, daughter to Ted and Mary Meyer. Lorne and Inga have 2 children, Gail born in 1963 and Peggy in 1967, and they make their home in Edmonton.

Gordon as a young lad was very shy and temperamental. He always had to know what was going to happen and when or he would get very stubborn and not do anything. Like Lorne, Gordon took all his schooling in Thorsby and was very active in sports. He worked in Edmonton for awhile and then on the DEW Line for 10 months while it was being built returning to start apprenticing as a bodyman at Popik's Auto Body in Thorsby in 1959. He stayed there until he finished his apprenticeship, then worked in Edmonton until he decided to tour the world in 1965. In 3 years he toured 32 countries and

while in Perth, Australia, met June Henderson and married her in Waihi, New Zealand in March 1968. After their marriage they came to Canada where Gordon became co-owner of an auto body shop in Edmonton. They returned to Australia after 3 years, but at his wife's insistence returned to Canada after about a year and a half. Upon returning Gordon started D&G Auto Body and is now the owner and operator of it.

Gordon and June have 2 children, Corey born in 1970 and Kylie born in Australia in 1972 and they make their home in Sherwood Park.

When Doris was 1½ years old, she suddenly became ill. The weather was very cold and the roads were drifted. Bernard had no car and the neighbors could not get theirs started so they bundled up Doris and took her to Thorsby with the team and sleigh. They found a ride with John Kinasewich and got her to an Edmonton hospital just in time for her to be operated on for a mastoid. Doris took her schooling in Thorsby and in 1959 married and had 4 children, Rodger in 1959 (passed away in 1960), Linda in 1961, Murray in 1962, and Wade in 1965.

In July 1977 Doris married Robert Seguin, who is originally from Ontario, and resides in Edmonton.

Being the youngest of a family of 4 had its trials for Irene. Where ever the older ones went, so did she or tried to. One time when she was about 2, she climbed up in the hayloft of the barn. When Bernard came by the barn she called to him from the open loft doorway. It sure didn't take Bernard long to get up there.

Irene also took her schooling in Thorsby and then helped on the farm until her marriage to Tony Denschikoff of Telfordville in May 1962.

Bernard and Ida sold their farm in July 1972 because of health reasons and retired to Thorsby where Bernard enjoys the Thorsby Senior Citizens Club with its morning and afternoon coffee. They both await the weekends and holidays when their children and grandchildren come to visit with them.

THE BESLER FAMILY

related by the family

Adolf Besler and Hertha Wedman were both born and raised in Sprucedale School District, also attending Sprucedale School. Adolf was the oldest son of Carl and Hulda Besler and Hertha was the fifth child of Gottlieb and Pauline Wedman, both coming from large families.

Adolf took Hertha's hand in marriage on April 21, 1939 in St. John's Lutheran Church (Heimthal-Leduc). While still newlyweds, they lived in the St. John's Parsonage. After a year they moved to the farm of Hertha's brother, Dan Wedman, east of Calmar, where they started farming by milking cows, raising pigs and chickens, also Adolf was out making hard earned money, carpentering for 25¢ an hour. While



Adolph Besler Family.
R. to L. Richard, Hertha Besler, Adolph (Ed) and David on the day of their confirmation.

still on the farm in Calmar, on January 11, 1942, they had their first arrival, a son, Allan Herbert.

In 1943 they moved to Adolf's parents' farm about 10 miles northwest of Leduc for 1 year. In October 1944, Adolf, Hertha and infant son Allan moved onto their own home quarter, one mile south of Thorsby, which they purchased from Emil Zittlau. They proceeded to make a living by farming and milking cows. Their first equipment purchased in 1943 was an Allis-Chalmers tractor, a 2 bottom plow and disc for \$1,100.00.

In 1948 Adolf and Hertha delivered bottled milk, house to house in Thorsby - ten years of hauling milk everyday. After they quit delivering milk in bottles, they still delivered milk in 8 gallon cans to Thorsby Cheese Factory. Later, a bulk tank was purchased and milk is now picked up by truck.

In 1957 Adolf began driving a school bus in Thorsby for the County of Leduc. He started with a Ford -54 passenger bus and over the 18 years that he drove, the bus was changed to a 66 passenger to accommodate the children on his bus route. The route remained pretty much the same so "Ed" was the only bus driver many of the children ever had.

On March 18, 1959 their second son, Richard James arrived and 15 months later, on June 19, 1960, a third son David Roy was born.

There were many opportunities to become involved in community affairs. Adolf, Hertha and boys are active members of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Thorsby. Hertha belongs to Lutheran Church Women and has held various positions in the group. Both Adolf and Hertha are always ready to help when needed in church affairs.

Adolf belonged to many clubs and organizations, some of which are: Director of the Strawberry Rural Electrification Association; is a member of the Thorsby Chamber of Commerce; Director of the Thorsby Community Centre Board; a member of the Advisory Board of United Grain Growers and United Farmers of Alberta. He was a curler for many years with the Thorsby Curling Club. He was a charter member of the Thorsby Lions Club and is still an active member. This fall (1979) the Lions will celebrate 25 years of service to the community. Over the years, he has held every office in the Lions Club - from tail

twister to president. In the meantime Hertha was "chief chore-girl" on the farm. Both Adolf and Hertha are active members in the Senior Citizens Club as well.

In 1963, another quarter section of land was bought from Mrs. Helen Pasula (next to the home farm). Twenty acres of this farm was still bush and had to be cleared by a brush cutter while roots and rocks were picked by the Beslers. Forty acres of the home quarter was cleared the same way in their early years on the farm.



Allan Besler Family.
Pat holding Ryan, Chandra and Allan. August 27, 1978.

Their oldest son Allan, was married to Patricia Ann Makowsky on May 12, 1973. They were blessed by their first granddaughter Chandra Heather on April 22, 1976 and their first grandson Ryan Allan on June 28, 1978. Allan and Pat now reside in Thorsby, as Allan purchased the school bus after his father retired from driving the bus.

Their second son, Richard is home on the farm with full intentions of taking over in the future.

Their third son, David is presently working at Beaver Lumber in Thorsby with possible future intentions of helping Richard on the farm. All three boys attended and graduated from Thorsby high school. Allan, Pat, Richard and David are also active in community affairs and are all avid curlers.

Adolf and Hertha have enjoyed life on the farm, through good and bad times and will probably retire here in Thorsby.

RAYMOND E. BROD

by Raymond E. Brod

I was born June 16, 1925 at Wetaskiwin, Alberta. When I was 5 years old, my parents and we children moved to the Thorsby district. Other than 2 years (1953 and 1954), I have lived at Thorsby. I went to school in Thorsby for 4 years, then I went to Dniester



Raymond, Ivy Brod and their son, Dwayne on the farm.

School. When I was 19, my dad and I hauled coal with a sled and team from Wizard Lake and delivered it to different stores and homes in Thorsby. We did this for 3 winters.

In the years that followed, 'til I was 26, the summers were spent farming at home with Dad and the winters would either find me in a lumber camp at Granada, Alberta, Buck Creek with the Roos brothers, or Edson, Alta. If I wasn't working in the winter, I would go net fishing at Battle Lake, Wabamun and Buck Lake. It was at Buck Lake, fishing in the winter of '50, that I met my wife, Ivy, (nee Bjur). We were married in 1951.

The first winter we lived at camp #9 west of Alder Flats and I worked in the mill as an edgerman.

The next summer I farmed with Dad, and that fall in 1952, we moved to Buck Lake to take over the farm of Ivy's uncle, Henry Brown. We were there 2 years. In the next 4 years I farmed at home. One summer and one winter we both worked at Haley's Saw Mill northwest of Hinton. The summer of 1956, I operated a cat for Champions Construction at Violet Grove. That winter I drove truck with my brother-in-law Arthur Bjur. We hauled ties for F.J. Hanson northwest of Edson. The following spring we moved onto Herb Knopp's farm. I farmed there 2 summers. The winter of 1957, I worked west of Rocky Mountain House at Bergstrom's Mill. Dad gave me 80 acres of the south quarter and sold me the other 80. So in the fall of 1958, we bought a small house in Devon and moved it onto the south quarter. There was an old log barn and a well on the yard. We had a few range cattle, so we traded 2 of these for each milk cow acquired. We ended up with a few milk cows and we were on our way in the dairy business. In 1964, we bought the folk's home quarter and moved the barn from there over to



Raymond Brod and his Chianina bull, Ivory Lillo that he imported from Spain.

our yard. In 1966, we had to decide if we were going into the dairy business on a larger scale, or if we would go out of it. We decided to stick with it and built a milking parlour and shed. During the next 10 years we enlarged our dairy herd. We built a new home in 1970. Another big event during this time was receiving a permit from the Canadian Government to import a heifer or bull of the Chianina breed from Italy. We decided to get a bull, and a year later he arrived in Calgary. This was August of 1974. That same fall Norman and Marg Bagshaw and their 2 children, Charlene and Stewart, moved their mobile home onto our yard and lived there a little over 2 years. Norman worked for us in the dairy business and farming.

On November 17th, 1976 we sold our dairy herd and equipment. The next spring I sold the Chianina bull to a rancher west of Calgary. Now we just have a few range cattle (Chianina) and a few horses and I still farm the land.

We have 1 son, Dwayne. He and his wife, Marlene, and their son, Chad, now live on the yard on the north quarter where I grew up.

PHILIP BROD SR.

by daughter, Edna Mannerfeldt.

Barges and boats loaded with freight plying the Danube River were one of my dad's earliest recollections of his boyhood. My father, Philip Brod Sr., was born October 5, 1893 in Nei Banovci, Yugoslavia, (now part of Austria) near the city of Semoline. His father, John Brodt, died of pneumonia at the age of 38. My father was 9 years old at the time. Being the eldest son of a family of five children, he had to quit school and go to work. He apprenticed as a tin smith or sheet metalist and also helped his mother glean the fields near his home.

In 1906, his mother married Adam Nitz. Letters from friends, John Pope and Adam Staudt, now living in Canada, told them of opportunities and lots of land to be had for a small down payment. Plans were made, and in 1910, my dad along with his mother and stepfather, 2 sisters, 3 step-brothers, 2 half-brothers and a half-sister sailed on a horse ship for Canada. Crossing the Atlantic took 13 days.

Joe Pope met the train at Walsh, Alberta. Dad's family went on to stay with Bauders, but Dad and Joe trudged the six miles back through snow drifts to Pope's homestead. The "T" in Brodt was dropped when they got to Alberta.

After Dad got settled in, he sat down to figure things out. First he went to file on a homestead. This he found six miles north of Irvine, on a hill overlooking the countryside. The rings of rocks that showed that the Indians had at one time lived there, were still visible a few years ago. Next he had to find work to pay for his 2 sisters' fares from Austria to Canada. He walked 27 miles to Medicine Hat and dug

ditches. Then he went to Regina with Fred Dittlebach and worked at construction. While there, he got

typhoid fever.

Homesteading was all right but Dad needed a wife. He conveyed these feelings to a friend, Adam Zeigler, who promptly replied, "Phil, I know just the girl for you." He was thinking of Christina Bauman, who was working for them. He promptly took Dad home with him and said to Christina, "There's a young man here to see you. Go talk to him." Dad asked her if she wanted to get married and she said, "Sure, if my dad agrees." Her dad agreed, glad that one more of his six girls would be independent.

Mom also knew what is meant to work hard. Back in Bessarabia, Russia, where she was born on July 28, 1898, she and her older sister, Rosie, after one year of formal schooling, took their place beside their father working in the fields and running the grist mill.

Her parents were Gottlieb Bauman, who was born July 26, 1872, and Katherina Schultz, born September 27, 1876. In 1913, the family immigrated to Canada. Their youngest daughter, Hulda, died shortly after they arrived here. Grandpa Bauman filed on a homestead between Hilda and Schuler. Money was non-existent. Their first house, Mom recalls, was a mud house. Grandpa measured out a size, laid out a straight string and proceeded to make the walls by mixing lime, straw and mud. The walls were about one foot thick. They even had windows! For warmth and cooking, cow and buffalo "chips" were used. This was home for 13 years. In 1927, Grandpa was able to build a wood-frame house.

Shortly after Dad's initial visit to see Mom, he went back again. Wedding plans were made and on April 8, 1917, they were married at Hilda. After the wedding reception, they drove over to George Pichtigen's home. As Dad was unhitching the horses, he was accosted by three men. Being in a party mood,



Clifford, Lydia, Harold, Carol and Randy Brod in 1970.

they cornered Dad and asked him for money. He refused and they clouted him over the head with a neck yoke, knocking him senseless to the ground. He spent the next three weeks in the hospital, a very sick man. Mother went alone to Dad's homestead, feeling very frightened and alone. A kind neighbour sent his fifteen year old son over to help her put in the crop.

In 1918, Dad got the "flu". Mom says, once again, he hovered between life and death for over two weeks. Her two main medicines she used were brandy and

garlic!

Happiness and laughter filled their little house when Johnny was born on December 1, 1920. Between spring and fall work, Dad would work out to help pay expenses while Mother looked after the farm. Johnny was one and a-half years old on that fateful day in 1922 when Mother drove a team of horses a mile across the prairie for water. Avoiding one bump on the trail, the stoneboat hit another. A 45-gallon barrel full of water toppled on Johnny, crushing him. To comfort the heartbroken parents, Grandpa Bauman sent his



Aerial view of the Philip Brod homestead home.

youngest daughter, Edna, then five years old, to live with them.

On February 15, 1923, Philip Jr. was born. Drought and lack of water forced Dad to leave the farm. With a friend, Julius Lindeman, Dad found a quarter of land to rent from Roy Ballhorn, east of Wetaskiwin. On March 1, 1925, with everything they owned on a freight train, the family moved. Dad rode with the animals and Mother and Philip Jr. rode in the passenger car. The trip took three days.

Raymond was born at Wetaskiwin on June 16, 1925. Erna followed on April 7, 1927 and Harold on April 28, 1929. Life was kinder and living a little easier. By this time, Dad even had a Chevy touring car. Living was maybe a little easier, but Mom was very homesick, with no family close-by. Her uncle and aunt, John and Jessie Bauman, who were living near Thorsby, wrote and begged them to come up there. Dad bought a quarter of land from Carl Schnick of Leduc, for \$2000.00.

In April of 1931, their 65 pigs, machinery and household things were loaded onto hayracks and wagons and the move began. Their cows walked behind. The Fink families and several other people helped Dad. With only 12 acres broken, money again was non-existent. Fortunately for them, they had a garden and milk, meat and eggs, and they were able to survive.

I, (Edna) was born Janury 9, 1932 and Olinda completed the family with her arrival on June 4, 1934. During the depression, trying to make a living was hard. Feed was scarce. Dad was finally able to purchase some grain to fatten his pigs. It cost him \$5.00 a piece to raise and when they were sold, he received \$2.50. One time Dad, together with three other farmers, shipped their cattle by train to the stockyards. When these were sold, they had enough money to pay the freight, but there was nothing left to take home.

Because there was so little land broken, Dad put together a wood saw and he would leave on Monday morning and saw firewood for anyone who needed wood cut. When they were finished with that, he would grind grain for them. His wages for cutting wood were \$1.00 an hour and for grinding \$1.25. He had to supply the tractor and gas.

Many men were out of work and I remember them walking down the roads looking for an odd job for a meal. Dad hired some of these men to clear land for him. They would sleep in the granaries. The government paid the farmer \$5.00 a month to hire them and each man also received \$5.00 a month and he got a pair of shoes.

That year, 1932, the folks made another important decision. Two farmer preachers (Emil Steinke and Mattis Comm) came to the district and held Bible Studies. At the close of these studies, they were baptized by Elder John D. Nuefeld and became members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The family has been active members ever since.

Pastor Neufeld was very musical and soon had all

the families meeting once a week to learn their "notes". Songs were learned, the 'do-re-me' method. I remember even Mom learned to play the old pump organ. He and his family were among the many visiting preachers, and others, who were always welcome at our home. Many times we girls had to sleep on the floor, so Mom and Dad could sleep in our bed, because their bed was occupied by guests.

In the summer, when the weather was nice, church services were held under the spruce trees at Knopps. The families gathered at different homes until a church was built near Dniester School.

The older chidren went to school at Thorsby for several years and then rules were changed and we walked 3½ miles to Dniester School. Mrs. Hale was a favorite teacher. The year Philip was in grade two, she had 66 pupils from grades 1 to 8. She was always fair and kind even though she was strict. A story is told that one time one of the boys didn't finish his homework. Mrs. Hale asked him if he did it and he replied ves. Upon checking and finding that it wasn't done, she strapped him, not because of the unfinished homework, but because he lied. School was sort of fun, but sometimes it was more fun to play hookey, especially if there were crow and magpie eggs and legs to collect and sell for a couple of cents each. At that time, the magpie and crow eggs were worth more than chicken eggs. Chicken eggs sold for a mere 5¢ a dozen.

We went to school during the war years and sometimes feelings against the German kids ran high. At odd times we were called Nazi and we didn't even know what the word meant.

Oh what fun we kids had! There was a creek behind the house and it was a super swimming hole. Our life jackets were two 10-lb. syrup pails with the lids on and a piece of binder twine tied between. We'd put this under our arms and they kept us afloat. We even learned to swim. In the winter, it was a skating rink and the hill was excellent for sleigh riding. Every spring though the creek would flood and wash our bridge out.

In June of 1944, after a week of heavy rains, every creek in the country became a raging torrent. There was water everywhere. Even in the town of Thorsby, they used boats to get around. With all our cans full of milk, Dad had to get to town to the cheese factory. Mr. Jim Callaway went in his wagon and Dad was going with team and buggy. They got to the bridge by Fred Knopp's and the water was running across the road. Dad took a long stick and poked everywhere to check if it was safe. Everything seemed fine so Dad got back into the buggy and urged the horses across. On one side, the ground had washed away, and with the weight of the horses, it gave away, plunging horses, buggy and Dad to the bottom. It was a sad father that came back home with Mr. Callaway. Our best horses were gone, but we were thankful that Dad was alive.

About 1944, Dad bought the south quarter from Maurice Canfield, (the NE 4-49-1 W5). Mr. John Hier did a lot of land breaking for us with his breaking plow

and Lance Bulldog tractor. Phil and Raymond were really excited when Dad bought our first tractor, a Minniapolis Moline U, from Mike Cherowski. Now the work would go faster. During several winters Dad, Raymond and Erna did commercial fishing, sometimes being away all week. The 1928 Chevrolet was bought with fishing money.

It was about 1941 that we began to leave the family nest. Philip Jr. was first. He worked at logging camps up north and on farms down south. He and Emma Rasch were married April 17, 1946. After that he was a salesman and a trucker. Today Phil and Emma live in Edmonton. He is a shop foreman of heavy duty mechanics with Conforce Construction. They have two children. Derald who is working in Edmonton and Debra who lives in Winnipeg with her daughter Michelle.

Raymond left for winter work at logging camps in 1943. He would come home in the springtime to help Dad. On November 5, 1951 he married Ivy Bjur. They lived on the homeplace and also worked in logging camps until Dwayne, their son, started school. Raymond then moved to the south quarter and ran a successful dairy for many years. Dwayne followed in his grandpa's footsteps. In April 1978, he received his diploma for sheet metals and also a Red Seal for proficiency. This entitles him to work anywhere in Canada. He set up his shop on his grandpa's farmstead. In 1972 Dwayne married Marlene Lawrence. They have a son Chad.

Erna had to quit school early and help Mom, who was not too well. Erna worked in Edmonton for a while. On October 25, 1949 she married a Yankee, Robert Mertz and now makes her home at Bismarck, North Dakota. They have two children. Calvin is in cement construction and he has a son, Bradly. A daughter Brenda (Mrs. Jim Peterson) is a supervision secretary at a school. She has three children; Brian, Jennifer and Michelle.

Harold also worked for neighbors and logged in the winter. On Nov. 5, 1952, he married Lydia Issler. They lived and farmed on the homeplace. In 1964, they bought land south of Sunnybrook. This they sold in 1973 and moved to Kelowna, B.C. Their three children; Carol (Mrs. Ron Turner) has a daughter, Lasha, Clifford, an apprentice baker, who plans to go to Europe to learn European culinary and Randy all make their home at Kelowna.

I, Edna, was home until 1950 when I left to take grade twelve at the Canadian Union College, near Lacombe. I graduated in 1951 with a High School Diploma. On June 17, 1956, I married Ragnar Mannerfeldt of Sylvan Lake, Alberta. I enjoy being a farmwife. We have four children. Jaclene is studying for a Masters degree in Pharmacology. Karen is studying to be a Respiratory! Therapist. Ronald is apprenticing to be an airplane mechanic and Jamie is at home.

Olinda took all her schooling at Thorsby, graduating with her Senior Matriculation 1953. She

received her Registered Nurse Diploma from the University Hospital in 1956. On March 30, 1958 she married Theodore Germain. She still enjoys working at her profession. They have two sons; Kenneth, who was selected to go with the Canada Ski Team to Austria on October 8, 1978 and Orville, who was approached by a baseball coach from Big Bend University in Washington.

Dad an Mom retired to the town of Thorsby in 1957. They enjoyed their few years there, gardening and visiting with the neighbors. Dad passed away on November 21, 1970. He was loved and respected by all who knew him. Mother at the present time, is living at Sherwood Park Nursing Home. She enjoys good health and loves to help knit and crochet for the Ladies Auxiliary.

DWAYNE G. BROD AND FAMILY

by Marlene Brod

Dwayne was born March 4, 1952 and moved around with his folks until he was 5 years of age, when he and his parents settled permanently in the Thorsby district.

Dwayne took all of his schooling in Thorsby. During this time, he was very active in sports, particularly in basketball and football. Marlene Lawrence, who later became his wife, cheered him on, as she was a member of the Thorsby Cheerleaders. The only obstacle in Dwayne's interest in sports was his dad's milk cows, with which he helped. During their courtship, they were also involved in the Thorsby gymkana club, for which they have a number of trophies, belt buckles, and ribbons to help them recall those years.

Dwayne and Marlene graduated in the spring of '71. After that, Dwayne was off to other endeavors, and Marlene to college. Dwayne tried his hand at several occupations but in the spring of 1972, he



Four Generations of the Brod family.

Dwayne & son Chad, with his father Ray Brod, and Ray's mother (holding baby Chad).



Marlene (Lawrence) Brod with husband Dwayne & son Chad.

decided to take up the sheet metal trade, which was the same line of work his grandfather Brod had done.

On July 7, 1972 Dwayne and Marlene were married. Marlene was born in Kelvington, Sask. and had moved to the district in the summer of 1963. After their marriage, they moved to Edmonton where Dwayne was working and Marlene attended the University of Alberta. In April of 1975, Marlene received her degree in education.

In 1976, they returned to Thorsby to an acreage southwest of town. Here Dwayne finished off the required schooling for his sheet metal diploma, and later started his own business, Independent Heating and Air Conditioning. Marlene, in the mean time, was

teaching in Thorsby.

On September 16, 1977 Dwayne and Marlene celebrated the arrival of their first born, Chad Derrick. Chad has the distinction of being the fourth generation of Brods, not only to reside in Thorsby, but on his great grandfather's farm.

THE E.L. BURGESS FAMILY

By Harry Burgess

My father was born in Roden County, Ontario on May 26, 1879. He moved with his parents to Brandon Manitoba at about 15 years of age. He used to help his father on buildings in Brandon. At the age of 21 he joined the Royal Candian Dragoons, being discharged in May 1903, as the Boer War had terminated. He served in Transvaal, South Africa. After discharge, he lived in Winnipeg for a short time. While he was still in uniform he met and married a young Irish girl, who had come out from Ireland seeking work.

My mother was Sarah Henderson, born in County Tyrone, Ireland. She came to Canada at the age of 17 and said it took 17 days to cross the ocean, as at times it was very rough. Later they moved to a farm in the Dunrae area in southern Manitoba.

While they lived at Dunrae my three oldest sisters were born: Violet - Mrs. Normal Chell; Myrtle - Mrs. Harris Fowler; Cynthia - Mrs. George Thomas.

As the land he had was not the best, they got the homestead fever. They heard about the open country in southern Alberta. In 1911 they made the move to Empress, Alberta. First just a shack was where they lived. I was born in Alsask in November 1911. Meanwhile, my dad had started the cellar for a house and got livable before winter set in. They tell me that Dad brought us out from Alsask when I was about 3 weeks old. The sleigh was pulled by one horse and one ox. The house progressed and was lived in by the time my sister Ida was born in 1914. Three more boys followed - Gordon, Henderson and Glover.

Once again they heard about land that had all the firewood one wanted, plus coal could be mined along the banks of some creeks. So plans were made to move to what is now the Thorsby district. My parents took up the south $\frac{1}{2}$ 24-49-1 W5. By this time my three oldest sisters were married and did not make the move.



Mr. & Mrs. E.L. Burgess in front of their home with 50th anniversary cake beside them.

We farmed for many years, clearing land the hard way. Dad was a plasterer by trade and was able to bring in some much needed cash. We watched the rails being laid for the railroad, the business places being erected in Thorsby, some just shacks to start with. I well remember when the Bank of Montreal opened and seeing Mr. Davis and Murray coming over to Forshners for their noon meal with Mr. Davis carrying the bank's cash in a bag which he kept beside him while he ate.

We knew nearly everyone around and there was a great deal of helping back and forth among the neighbors.

In the late 1930's my mother started to take in a few maternity patients - to make it more convenient for Dr. Hankin, and the patient. She worked many long hours - always giving loving care to the newborn as well as the mothers. I still have her account book of the ones who had been admitted. Quite a few men from the lumber camps and sawmills came, too.

Dad worked at plastering in Edmonton many years, leaving the running of the farm to the rest of us. Mother had a huge garden, and canned jars and jars of it for winter use. We also picked berries as there were a great many then.

In 1938 Mother was very sick with typhoid fever and she took a long time to recover. But the hospital went on. In March 1941 they decided they would retire from it. So my wife and I decided to take it over. I had married Kathleen Thomas in October 1936. We ran it until it closed in December 1941.

My sister, Ida, married Bernard Barager in May 1935. They still live in Thorsby. They have 2 boys and 2 girls.

Gordon married Bertha Ruff in December 1938. She also was a local girl. They moved to Edmonton in 1942. They had 2 boys and a girl, Norman, Ronald and Marlene. Gordon plastered in Edmonton for a few years, later crushing glass for the stucco trades. Later still, he designed machines to make the metal edgings used by the plasterers. He also designed and built the first automatic beer-by-the-glass dispenser. Gordon passed away in June 1976 after a long illness. Before that my oldest sister Violet Schnell died in 1964. She lived in Hanna. They had 2 children, Bernice and Jack.

Jack was killed in an accident many years ago.

Henderson married Nellie Scobie, and they also live in Edmonton. He plastered in Edmonton too, for many years. They have 4 boys and a girl.

Glover married a girl from Sedgewick Irene Ness. He served in the R.C.A.F. and married after the war in 1947. He also went into the plastering trade, working out at first, then running his own crews. At the present time he is employed in building beer machines. They have 5 daughters and live in Edmonton.

My father's oldest sister lived until she was 100 years old. My father lived until he was 86. He died in 1965. He had worked, building houses in Edmonton and plastering, into his seventies. My mother died in Edmonton in 1954. Of the eight of us we have produced quite a few progeny, as my sisters had 12 children among the three older ones.

I came out to British Columbia in 1942, first working out, later having my own business. I sold out in 1972 and am retired now. We had 2 boys, Earl and Merril.

On our trips back we have noticed many changes in the district; farms changing hands and new houses being built.

MR. & MRS. SAMUEL BUSS

Written by Linda Kisser

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Buss were born in Russia, in a section that later became a part of Poland. They left their homeland and came to Canada in 1927. With them were their daughter Lydia and her husband Albert Rinas, daughter Hannah and adopted son Leonard Gaubatz who was also their nephew.

They settled down to farming along with Rinases on the farm presently owned by Steve Klimosko, 2 miles south of Thorsby. After a few years Albert and Lydia sold their farm and moved to Mt. Lehman, B.C. The Busses then took up farming with their younger daughter Hannah who had married August Rinas of

the Morrowdale district.

Their adopted son Leonard bought his farm 6 miles south of Thorsby, from Arnold Kisser. A few years later Mr. & Mrs. Buss left Morrowdale and went to live with him in order to give him a helping hand. Upon retirement they decided to seek a warmer climate and in 1948 moved to an acreage in Mt. Lehman, in the Fraser Valley in B.C. Here they were near to their daughter Lydia and Albert Rinas who took care of them in their old age. Mr. & Mrs. Buss passed away a few years ago and are buried near Abbotsford, B.C.

Leonard married Katie Uebershear in 1951 and they remained on the farm and kept busy until ill health struck him. Leonard died in the early 1960's



Families who gathered for Sunday worship services. John Baumans, Ed Baumans (at their home), Ed Kisons, Meckleys, Beierbachs, Albert Rinas' and Sam Buss.





Mrs. Samuel Buss.

Samuel Buss.

and is buried in the Morrowdale Cemetery. They never had any family. His widow Katie remarried after several years and she and her second husband Harry Troudt continued farming until her death in the summer of 1978. She too is buried at Morrowdale.

Albert and Lydia Rinas reside in Abbotsford, B.C. Hannah lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

OSCAR CHRISTOPHERSON FAMILY

by Elsie Erickson

The year was 1914. As a 20-year-old young man gazed across the blue waters of the North Atlantic on his way to New York, U.S.A., he had no way of knowing that a community represented by a small pin-point on the map of Canada would remember him as one of the pioneers, who helped open up and settle the area. Nor did he know, as he glanced back towards his homeland, whether he would ever see it or his family again.

One thing he knew. He wanted no part of the war that was threatening to engulf the whole of Europe. He served 2 years in the Swedish cavalry and knew it was not for him. He was of prime military age and was taking no chances. Besides, he could not visualize any future for himself as a farmer in Gargnes, Westerbotten, Sweden where he was born and raised. The land inheritance had been getting smaller and smaller with each passing generation, depending on how many sons there were in a family. He had heard about the vastness and wealth of the U.S.A. where a man could buy as much land as he wanted and where a prospective farmer only needed to set his plow to the ground without having to clear away any trees. This was for him and, as did many other Scandinavians, he eventually arrived in Kulm, North Dakota where he was met by acquaintances, who had emigrated before him. Here he found work with the farmers, saving up

enough money to buy a well-boring machine operated

by horse-power, and went into the business of boring water wells for the neighboring farmers. He hoped to save enough money to buy a quarter section of land.

He met and married Miss Anna Johnson in 1917. She had emigrated from the same part of Sweden in 1911. Shortly after their marriage Anna's cousin, Mr. Elof From and his wife Jenny and family, arrived in Kulm from Thorsby, Alberta, Canada. Elof owned a quarter section of land there (N.E. 16-49-1-W5) and advertised that it was for sale for \$800 since he was moving back to Sweden. Oscar began to think seriously about buying this land, as \$800 was not unreasonable for one quarter, and being a family man now, he had to start thinking about a permanent home for his wife and the family that he hoped to have. Being a bit of an adventurer, Oscar took Elof at his word, gave him the \$800 and, together with Anna, set out for Canada to see what they had bought. This was in 1919.



L. to R. Herbert Johnson, Kulm, N. Dak, Oscar Christopherson, Anna Christopherson, Astrid Christopherson, Elvira Sund, Andrew Sund holding daughter Elsie, Alvar Christopherson seated on top of car. Summer of 1930.

Thorsby proved to be quite different from North Dakota. It was more like coming back to northern Sweden but on a far vaster scale. When they arrived at their farm they discovered that Mr. From's house had burned to the ground after he left as the result of a grass fire. They were now without a roof over their heads. Anna's first thought was to sit down on a stump and have a good cry and then return to North Dakota as fast as possible. There was nothing but timber, mud and water and the mosquitoes were unbearable.

Oscar on the other hand, saw that the farm had possibilities. Unlike the farms in North Dakota, this farm required a lot of work before it would be ready for the plow as the greater part of it was covered by virgin bush. Being young and ambitious, this would



Oscar Christopherson and second wife Natalie. Taken about 1945.

pose no problem. There were other assets here that North Dakota did not have. For one thing, there was plenty of wood so they would not have to freeze, and it should not take long to erect some sort of a house with all the timber around. This was one of the things that was lacking in North Dakota. There was also plenty of grass and water for raising cattle so they should not have to worry about the drought that some North Dakota farmers were experiencing. There was an abundance of wild game and fish nearby so they would not have to starve. Muskrats and other fur-bearing animals were plentiful so he could trap in the winter as a sideline to farming. Hunting, fishing and trapping were quite familiar to him in Sweden.

He began to feel quite at home here. The Buford area to the southeast was settled by Scandinavians, many of them from Kulm, North Dakota, including the John Eklunds whom they had met there, and the Osterbergs, where they would find lodging until they had a house of their own. The initial shock over, Anna determined to make the best of it. She would stay here until her child was born, and by that time they might have something started of their own.

Oscar got in touch with his brother-in-law, Hjalmar Johnson, in Kulm, N.D. and made arrangements for him to bring out, by train to Leduc, the 2 mules and team of horses that he had left there along with some machinery and household effects. Then he set to work building a log house and barn for the cow that he had received as payment for some work that he had done for Carl Lindgren of Buford.

Additional cattle could be obtained from the neighboring farmers, who were only too glad to give away their newborn calves in order to save their milk. When the house was finished, Oscar brought his wife and baby daughter, Astrid, home. When Hjalmar arrived, he stayed on with them for a year or two and helped Oscar get started clearing land.

The following year, 1921, a son Alvar was born, and Anna was too busy caring for her children and farm chores to think about her loneliness. During the '20's a larger log house was built and a great deal of land was cleared, coming under the plow. The grain bundles were stacked and threshed later in the fall and winter by Radowits' steam-powered threshing outfit. Alvar (Swede) remembers the grain stacks had to be fenced with wire netting to keep the rabbits from eating up the grain. He remembers shooting, skinning, and selling rabbit hides, there being no problem in going out one winter's afternoon and shooting a sleighload of rabbits. He also remembers helping his dad trap muskrats on the present Thorsby townsite.

Swede and his sister Astrid went to school at the Telfordville school which was situated about 1 mile north and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of their farm home. Swede was exceptionally good at baseball and remembers one teacher, Walter Malloy, who encouraged and helped him join the Thorsby men's team when he was 14. He became especially good at pitching and played ball for many years.

He recalls the early post office run by August Sahlstrom situated near the creek on the farm later owned by Herb Knopp.

Swede remembers his dad as an exceptionally strong man. He recalls the weight-lifting contest at the early sports days when his dad and Reinhold Knopp were the only 2 men able to pick up a length of steel railroad track and turn it completely around and set it down again, the rail weighed close to 20 pounds per foot. He remembers himself and other youngsters



Caroline Christopherson, aged 13, with brother Wayne, aged 4.

trying to catch greased pigs and climbing greased poles at these events.

One thrilling experience Swede remembers happened one Sunday morning about 1930, just after the railroad went through. He and some neighborhood boys came across a pump car standing on the railroad track unattended and decided that it might be fun to take it for a ride. So they climbed aboard and rode almost to Calmar before a speeder caught up with them. He does not relate what happened when they got back, but no doubt the seat of their pants got warmed up a bit.

Anna never really got over her loneliness, but it was alleviated somewhat when her sister Elvira from North Dakota came to stay with them during the winter of 1927-28 and then married Andrew Sund of Buford. At least now she had a sister to visit with. Anna, however, was not too robust and the pioneer life and hard work was proving to be too much for her, and her health began to fail. She passed away at the age of 36 in 1932, leaving her 13 year old daughter, and 11 year old son motherless.

Oscar mourned the passing of his wife, and caring for 2 school-age children proved no easy task. Despite the depression and hard times, he determined to go ahead with his plans of building a new farmyard so one winter (about 1935-36) he hauled home 20,000 feet of lumber by sleigh across Pigeon Lake from Snell's sawmill and the following year started building his new house and barn. Pete Miller was the carpenter. The buildings are still in existence although they have stood empty for many years.

About 1940, Oscar married a widow, the former Natalie Martin, a meticulous housekeeper who will always be remembered by those who knew her for her kind heart and concern for others, as well as for her interest in intricate crochet work and other handicrafts which she displayed throughout the house.

In 1942 another blow struck the Christopherson household when daughter Astrid passed away in a Calgary hospital in her early 20s. Having given her infant daughter for adoption earlier, the Christophersons had no way of knowing her whereabouts until 1977 when she had her ancestry traced to the Christophersons of Thorsby. It was a happy reunion indeed when Swede met his only niece for the first time in Sept. 1977.

In 1942, Alvar (Swede) married Goldie Platz and bought a piece of land at Mission Beach, Pigeon Lake where he made his home and where he loved to fish. In 1944, a daughter Caroline, was born and in 1952, a son Wayne was born. When oil was discovered in the Leduc area, Swede made his living by working in the oil fields around Calmar and Drayton Valley, still playing baseball when time permitted. After close to 20 years of marriage, Swede and Goldie were divorced, and Swede then married Hilda Brusnyk of Wabamun. They moved to Vancouver after their marriage, where Swede spent a great deal of his time fishing. In 1975, after a tragic car accident in which his

second wife lost her life, Swede moved back to Alberta and now spends his time around Breton and the Buck Creek area.

Oscar continued farming and became a widower once again during the '50's and in 1959 lost his own life. The farm remains in the Christopherson Family, although it has been farmed for many years by the Knopps.

JOHN SMITH COLLINSON

John Collinson and his wife Mary (Mae) bought the Jacob Madiuk farm.

Mr. Collinson was a foreman on road construction, and was also hired by the road building crews to look after the horses, as he was a real lover of the animals. He was called on for veterinary duties by his fellow farmers.



Mr. and Mrs. Smith Collinson.

Mrs. Collinson was noted for raising turkeys and chickens, and she kept her chicken house in immaculate lime-white condition.

Upon selling their farm to Mike Pasula, the Collinsons retired to Thorsby and lived in a house that Jack Coleman built for them. The house was just west of the present-day Cheese Factory.

Mr. Collinson died in 1949 at the age of 80, and Mrs. Collinson remained in their home until she passed away in March of 1952 at the age of 79.

STEPHEN AND CATHERINE DORNAN

Mr. Dornan was born in Alma County, New Brunswick, on February 2, 1889 and came to Alberta in 1912. Mrs. Dornan was born February 25, 1915, in Tomhaggard County, Wexford, Ireland and came to Alberta in 1924.

In April, 1947, Stephen and Catherine Dornan arrived in Thorsby, with their eight children from Cherhill, Alberta, where they had farmed. Three more children were born at Thorsby. A friend from Cherhill brought them to Thorsby by car and their effects followed by transport and included 3 teams of horses,



Dornan Family.
Back Row: L. to R. Kathleen, Fred,
Dennis, Jim, Margaret, Lawrence
and Mary. Centre Row: Andy,
Martin, Rose and Barbara. Front
Seated: Stephen and Catherine
(parents).

some cows, pigs, as well as the usual household effects. They had heard of land in this area through a newspaper advertisement and had decided to choose an area where their children would be closer to schools and where other amenities would be easier to obtain.

The original house is still in the same place as it was in 1947 and it apparently was built in about 1939. A man by the name of Schmidt did some of the work while the owners at that time, the Schoonovers, did the rest, for the most part. It is a log stucco structure.

Household chores, such as washing was done on a scrub board until a gas powered washing machine was purchased some years later. Other household chores were done much the same way as other people of that time did and shopping was usually done on the local level. Their social life consisted of visiting and the occasional church function. They also attended the local Home and School meetings. The Family Herald and The Country Guide farm papers, came on a regular basis.

All of the children helped with the farm and household chores such as milking cows by hand, feeding pigs and chickens, haymaking in the summer, stooking and harvesting in the fall. One bad storm knocked all the windows out of the west side of the house.

The children all attended Thorsby Schools and up until about 1965, they walked approximately one mile to school. Their eldest son, Lawrence, won a contest in the sixth grade for writing an essay on the Canadian Navy. This was a national contest and his prize was a wrist watch and a large picture of a Canadian ship which hung in the elementary school for many years. His teacher at that time was Miss Joyce Kulak. The Dornans attended Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church located in Thorsby. Mass was each Sunday and a resident priest served the village as well as the local area.

The farm was legally described as the

N½-15-49-1-W5. The very first buildings were built by the previous owner and the original house was located approximately 1500 meters S.W. of the present day site. The first well that was drilled after the Dornans arrived was located about 50 meters west of the present house and was drilled by a man from Beaumont who used a horse. The crops were planted with horses and the grain was used to feed the cattle in the winter. The harvesting being done likewise by horses and the travelling threshing machine. A large garden was always maintained and potatoes that were sold, about 1956, sold for about \$2.00 cwt.

In 1959, the farm was divided into three distinct parts when Highway 39 was constructed. This development now left part of the farm north of Highway 39, part of it south of Highway 39 and still another part of it south of the Weed Creek, and adjoining the village. All of the homes in the north west section of the village are built on the original ½ section, as well as the village's water treatment plant.

In later years Mr. Dornan's age and poor sight forced him to rent out the land and following his death all farm machinery and livestock were dispersed with.

Mr. Dornan passed away January 22, 1970, at the University of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton following a brief illness and is buried at St. Anthony's Cemetery in Edmonton. As of this writing his widow still resides on the family farm at Thorsby.

HUGH FORBES

by Granddaughter, Treasa Ruff

Hugh Forbes, son of John Forbes and the former Sarah McDermid, was born March 11, 1891 on a farm in Harrison, Ontario. Hugh, at the age of 12, along with his father and mother, 3 brothers and 2 sisters,



Wedding picture of Hugh Forbes and Anne Gregg.

came west on the train to Edmonton. The dad worked in a flour mill in Edmonton for 2 years.

From Edmonton, the family moved to a homestead two miles east of Calmar. Hugh attended Rosalin School and helped his parents clear the land there. His mother died when Hugh was 14. The other children went back east to live with relatives and Hugh began working out in the Calmar district. He herded 700 sheep, with one trusty horse to help him. He earned 50 ¢ a day.

During this time there was a sports day in Leduc. Hugh entered a five mile run and received a second place medal which he still has. He was interested in sports and went on his horse many times to play soccer in Calmar.

Hugh was married on November 27, 1918 at the age of twenty-seven to Anne Gregg of Calmar. He had filed on a homestead which is the NE 26-49-1 W5. This is one mile east of Thorsby speed curve.

He had built a log house and was ready to settle down. He can remember many long trips to Leduc. He would start early in the morning and return late at night. In the fall, he often made three trips a week, as he hauled wheat to Leduc for himself and anyone else who needed him. In winter he would make willow posts to take to Leduc to trade for groceries and other needed items. There were about 600 posts on a load and he was given a value of 3¢ a post. Many times it was so cold that he walked behind the sled to keep warm. This was a distance of 20 miles, one way. In spring and wet summers the road to Leduc was very poor. The paved road is in much the same place as the road he



Old car. Hugh Forbes front seat, centre.

travelled on. There were many swampy areas so a corduroy road was made in these places.

The family had 5 cows. For a 5 gal. can of cream, they received \$2.00. They had 5 horses to do the work. Some pigs and chickens were also kept.

Good neighbors were invaluable at this time. At any time they were willing to help, or just a friendly visit added much happiness.

As time went on, there were 4 children for Hugh to look after as he lost his wife at a young age. A son also died at the same time.

The first Progress School was a long distance by road and a danger for young children to reach by taking the short-cut through thick trees and across the Weed Creek. Hugh thought of his young children and decided to more closer to the school, so they would not have so far to walk. About 1932, Hugh traded his homestead which he had worked so hard to clear, for another one. The trade was made with Fred Hook.



Forbes children: Mark, Doris, Ruby, Jean.

This homestead is the S.E. 24-49-1 W5 which is 2 miles east of Thorsby. There were only about 22 acres of cleared land and a new set of buildings had to be built. Again he worked hard, but at this time the railway came, so there were fewer trips made to Leduc. Thorsby was just beginning. Hugh saw it begin and grow to its present stage.

Mr. Forbes has four children. Mark lives on the home place. And 3 daughters, Doris (Mrs. Jack Ruff), and Jean (Mrs. W. Ruff) both of Thorsby, and Ruby (Mrs. Robert Peck) of Edmonton. He has nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Shortly after the time of writing, Mr. Forbes died and was buried in the Telfordville Cemetery. Up until his death in July of 1978 at the age of 87, he was a remarkable person who was one of the true pioneers of the area.

ERHARD AND BERTA FROM

By Judy From

The brillance of the sun dispersed the doubt that beset the tall, blond man, this cold October day, as he boarded the ship which would transport him from his home in Sweden across the wide Atlantic to a new land and a new life.

The decision had been a difficult one. Twenty-six-year-old Erhard Nicholas, formerly a logger and more recently a soldier, born April 28, 1896 to Carl Ludwig and Josephine From of Gargnasse, Sweden, left behind not only his father, three brothers and sister, but also his new bride Berta Josephine.

Berta was born May 22, 1896 to Joseph and Augusta Dahlberg of Bochtresk, Sweden. Unknown to Erhard, he was also leaving his yet unborn daughter.

Before him lay only the promise of a land of milk and honey; a land where he could raise his family free from want.

After weeks of heaving to and fro upon a hostile sea, enduring the seasickness, inadequate diet and overcrowding, he found himself ill prepared for the unyielding environment awaiting him in Canada. To his surprise he found poverty and want. Faced with vast distances, wilderness, a language barrier, and with loneliness, he forged his way westward.

Erhard worked for a time as a construction worker helping to erect the Eaton's Warehouse before he reached the logging camps in the interior of British Columbia. Here he worked at his old trade as logger for 45¢ an hour. It was more than a year before he could send for his wife and now infant daughter Margot.

She came, this ebony-haired damsel, her trip more agonizing than his. The ship tossed mercilessly upon the stormy sea. The illness of her daughter added to her distress. To her disadvantage she lacked Erhard's gregariousness.

At last, in March of 1924, 18 months after Erhard had left Sweden, the ordeal was finally over. Erhard and Berta, reunited in the CPR station in Edmonton, were ready to begin their new life together. However, the reunion was short-lived. Erhard worked for a time constructing grain elevators, but the city life upset his shy, retiring wife so he returned to British Columbia and the logging camps where wages were better. He left Berta to stay for a time with the family of Rudoph Johnson and later with August Sahlstrom of Thorsby.

In 1925, through dogged determination, Erhard had put aside a small down payment and purchased a 1/4 section of land, SE 16-49-1-W5, from Nels Lindbloom. The price he paid was enormous -\$1,600.00 for 160 acres of land, heavily treed. In the midst of a 5-acre clearing stood a 12' x 14' log cabin infested with mice and bedbugs. Erhard and Berta, now expecting their second daughter Ina, set up housekeeping.

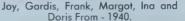
If loneliness and language had been a problem for the sociable, outgoing Erhard, it was doubly so for the quiet, shy Berta. She missed her family desperately and felt despair because she faced the same poverty in Canada as she had in Sweden. But this 100 pounds of determination threw herself into the task at hand. A gentle, sensitive woman working side by side with her equally determined husband, cleared their land, tree by tree. This would be their home for many years.

There was little money coming in and land payments had to be made. Utilizing the excellent marksmanship he had learned in the Swedish Army, Erhard supplemented the food supply with freshly killed game. He also set up a trap line, selling coyote and beaver pelts to meet the payments. Berta also used her talents by spinning, weaving and knitting. By this she kept her family warm through the bitterly cold winters.

During these busy times a third girl Doris was born. Even though this meant another child to care for along with other responsibilities, Erhard and Berta always had time for friends. One in particular was Mr. Sahlstrom, who operated the Post Office just east of the From farm. Along with his good company, he brought goodies for the children. The apples and oranges he brought were a welcome change from the rose hip syrup which normally supplied Vitamin C to their diets during the winter months.

In 1929, along with the arrival of their first son Frank, came the hamlet of Thorsby. Gone were the days of week long trips to Leduc for supplies and medical attention. Once the school was built in 1930,







Judy From - six months old.

Margot, almost seven, was able to attend. Her teacher, Mrs. Beulah Hale, was to become a lifelong friend of the family. And, as with new towns, came the pool hall and hotel. The availability of liquor now had its effect.

The Depression hit! There was widespread unemployment and abject poverty. With the Depression came the railroad bums who were always hungry, always tired, and always looking for work. Even though Erhard and Berta were poor themselves, struggling to feed a growing family, they never turned away anyone who came to their home for food or shelter. The log barn for the livestock provided a fragrant bed for many a weary traveler. Also during



Erhard and Berta From - 1971.

the Depression two more girls, Gardis and Joy were born. Even with the prospect of more mouths to feed there was always the occasion for good times. One year, dressed in the beard and red hat of Santa Claus, Erhard made his way through the streets of Thorsby, his horse-drawn sleigh bedecked with bells. His companion, dressed as Black Peter, handed out candies to all the children they met.

The Depression then gave way to World War II. Midway through the war a seventh child Judy was born.

In 1946, they gave up their log cabin and moved into a five-bedroom home that they had built. The children began to leave home, marry and provide Erhard and Berta with the pleasure of grandchildren.

In 1968 Frank, their only son, took over the farm allowing Erhard and Berta, now past 70, to retire to a small house in Thorsby. Here they lived a leisurely life until Oct. 1971 when Erhard was left alone as Berta died after a serious illness. He found life difficult and lonely without Berta by his side. As his final effort, Erhard moved into the Parkland Nursing Home in Leduc in 1974 where he still resides.

On July 19, 1978 Erhard faced yet another misfortune. His bachelor son Frank was killed in a farming accident.

Erhard, a happy-go-lucky man, and Berta, his gentle, loving wife, will always be remembered and loved deeply by their six daughters, twenty grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

FERDINAND GUNSCH FAMILY HISTORY

related by Ferdinand and Ruth

It was about 60 degrees below zero F. on Christmas Day 1926 when Ferdinand Gunsch and his mother arrived in Leduc at 7 a.m. They had come from Russia and found the weather much colder than they were used to. The next day a trip was made to the home of Emil Gunsch in the Fruitland district. This was home until spring for Ferdinand. He then worked for farmers in the Rolly View district.

The next few years he spent working in Saskatchewan and around Leduc. In 1934 he homesteaded in the Genesee district and lived there until his mother's death, in 1942, at the age of 78. He then bought a well-drilling outift and drilled wells around Barrhead and between Leduc and Breton. The deepest well was 360 feet and the shallowest was 40 feet. Many of them were artesian wells.

The year of 1947 was an important one as he decided to give up bachelorhood and marry Mrs. Ruth Grohn, a widow in the Morrowdale district. Her husband, Robert Grohn, had been killed in an accident late in 1946, leaving her with 4 children: Ben aged 12, Eric, Erna and Arnold, who was only a baby of 7 months.

The next year the family moved north of Thorsby and lived on a farm beside the Blind Line for 4 years. In 1953 they moved to the Fruitland district, the original Herman Diercks' farm. Another move a few years later took them a few miles south onto the Klemky farm which was Ruth's old home. Here, they farmed and lived until retiring into Thorsby in 1967. Two more sons were added to their family during the years, Alfred and Harvey.



Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Gunsch.

After moving into Thorsby, Ferdinand and Ruth became very active members of the United Church. Ferdinand served on the church board for 10 years and Ruth was president of the UCW for 3 years. She also served on the board.

They were involved with the first barbecue held at Rundle's Mission in June 1970, and were on the committee to prepare the meat. Ferdinand helped dig a 3x14x6 foot pit where a fire was kept burning for 12 hours. It was lit at 10 p.m. and burned until a good bed of coals built up. The men used green poplar logs up to 8 feet in length, and some were 10 inches in diameter. Roasts of beef 12 to 15 pounds in size were wrapped in aluminum foil and placed on a screen over the coals. A log was placed around the top of the pit to build the sides up and a sheet of plywood was placed over the top. Then dirt was shovelled over it to a depth of 4 inches so no steam could escape. The meat was cooked from 10 am. to 5 p.m. and had a delicious flavor when served.

Ladies of the United Church congregations made a



Erna Leland, Ruth Gunsch, James Begalke, Mrs. Phillips and Greatgranddaughter, Dory.

variety of pies and 100 lbs. of potatoes were scrubbed, wrapped in foil and baked. Green salads, buns, pickles, 15 lbs. of cottage cheese and coffee were served to 300 people that first barbecue. The event was so popular that each year more people came; by 1978 it required 80 lbs. of cottage cheese to fill the menu. The ladies could expect to feed 600 to 800 hungry people from points as far away as Edmonton. The sloping green lawn in front of the mission and the beautiful view overlooking Pigeon Lake served as an added attraction.

With funds from various money-raising events, the UCW were able to cover the cost of a new floor for the Thorsby church in 1977. Ferdinand, Sam Patrick, Peter Borys, Harold and Vernon Halladay, Bernard Barager, Donald Ohrn, Dennis Engberg and others combined their efforts to install the new floor and lay carpeting over it.



Harvey and Joanne Gunsch and children, Candice and Nathan.

The Grohn and Gunsch children all grew up and became successful in their various occupations. Ben and his wife Deanna live in Wetaskiwin and continue to be actively involved with community affairs. They were residents of Warburg for many years prior to moving to Wetaskiwin.

Eric and his wife Herta farm south of Sunnybrook. Erna is now a grandmother and keeps busy with a full-time job. She lives in the Thorsby community now but spent many years north of Edmonton while her family was growing up.

Arnold married Linda Ratke of Fort Saskatchewan and became a welder. In 1978 he supervised the building of a crane to be used in strip coal mining. They now live in Estevan, Sask. and have 2 children.

Alfred married Grace Howrie and worked as a trucker for 10 years. He is now assistant agent for the Pioneer Elevator Co. at Calmar.

Harvey married Joanne Stein from Strausburg, Sask. and is employed as a trucker. They have 2 children and live in Thorsby.

Ferdinand and Ruth were very active in the Thorsby Senior Citizens' Club until ill health forced them to cut back on their activities.

On January 6, 1979 Ferdinand celebrated his 70th birthday and a party was held for him in the senior citizens' Drop-In-Centre. About 80 relatives and friends attended to wish him well.

THE SAM AND VERA GUNSCH STORY as told by Vera.

I was born May 26, 1926. Dad and Mother, Mr. and Mrs. W. Smith, moved from Wilton Park in April of that year. The house I was born in is still standing. We lived on the land where my brother Del still farms and the buying station is located on it, 2 miles north of Thorsby.

I was the second daughter and the fifth child in a family of 7. I took my schooling in Thorsby, having completed Grade 11 in 1942. School buses were unheard of. We went by horse and buggy in summer and cutter in winter. We hauled milk to the cheese factory at the same time. In winter we had hot stones under our feet to keep them warm. Mrs. Powell was nice enough to keep them in her oven during the day so they would be hot on our way home. Sometimes, on our way home, we'd stop at Hoffman's Store for groceries. Dave Ross was a clerk and he would toss us licorice suckers on our way out of the store.

We were luckier than some children as mother was a good seamstress and made us clothes from hand-me-downs given to her. I stayed home and helped on the farm for 2 years after I quit school.

On November 20, 1944 I married Sam Gunsch, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Gunsch. We lived on the N.E. 23-49-1 W5 just 2 miles from my home. About 1949, we bought the Jack Forbes' place



Sam, Vera, holding Janice and Roger Gunsch in 1952.

across the road. A few years later we also rented the Mike Haluska farm. On December 25, 1947 our first son, Roger, was born. On May 26, 1951 our daughter, Janice was born. Things got easier for us in the following years. We were able to buy a new truck instead of our old '27 Chev car. We got a tractor

instead of horses to do the field work. We got our own threshing machine. Of course we milked about 20 cows and sold ream. Besides, we fed at least 100 pigs. In the fall of 1958 we got the power and a T.V.

On July 21, 1959 Sam died. We had some really good neighbors and relatives who came to help and see me through the worst days. I was pregnant at the time and our third child, a son, Sam, was born on Dec. 11, 1959.

After Sam died, I sold the cattle and machinery in Oct. of 1959. We moved into Thorsby in the house next to the United Church, which was willed to Sam when his mother died in 1953. The farm was rented to Roy Davis on a cash basis for 1960. Roy Davis moved off in the fall of 1960. In the spring of 1961 the children and I moved back to the farm and bought a few cows and pigs. The land was rented on a crop-share basis to Steve Gitzel that year. That fall, 1961, I married Terrance Gascoyne. I have a daughter, Roxanne, born July 17, 1962. The next 2 years, 1962 and 1963, Bernard Barager rented the land. My oldest son, Roger, turned 16 that year and quit school, so in 1964 we bought our own machinery and he started to work the land. We built up a dairy herd again buying one cow at a time and sometimes more than one at dairy sales. In 1965 we had a dairy barn built to hold 32 cows with a milk house under the same roof.

In August 1967, Roger married Alda Markstedt. Roger rented and later bought the land from me. He still has a dairy herd and several horses. Roger and Alda have a daughter, Tracy, born April 23, 1968 and a son, Jimmy, born May 1, 1971. Janice married Claude Albert in March 1973. They are farming in the Warburg area and have a herd of beef cattle. They have a daughter, Tanya, born August 8, 1975 and a son, Trevor, born December 21, 1977. Sam graduated from Thorsby High School in 1977, winning 5 awards, and is now a real estate agent for Buxton Realty in St. Albert. Roxanne is taking Grade 11 and is still at home.

During the years up to 1974 we were all involved in the Thorsby Barrel Busters Gymkana Club, the children taking several trophies. Roger and Alda and their children still take an active part in rodeo events with Roger and the children taking their share of the prizes.



L. to R. Roxanne, Roger, Sam Gunsch and sister Janice standing.

In 1978 Roger was named "Best all around Cowboy in the Foothills Cowboy Association". His prize was a trophy plus an all expense-paid trip to the National Finals Rodeo held in Oklahoma City, Okla. U.S.A. in December of that year.

He had competed in the Association's annual finals at Cochrane on Oct. 7 - 9 and won the calf roping average for which he also received a trophy. He ended up in second place in steer wrestling for that year. The top winner, Dave Hofer of Lethbridge, beat him by 6/10 of a second. For that event Roger's prizes included a silver buckle, spurs, hat and boots and were presented at the Association's annual banquet in Red Deer on Nov. 4.

THE VINCENT JABLONSKI FAMILY

by Ernest Jablonski

Tom Jablonski's oldest son Vincent (Vince), contracted a half section from the CPR in 1925. This was the north half of sec. 21 in the same township as his father's. He lived and worked at his parents' home and on any spare occasion he would clear on his own heavily-treed farm. Little time was left however, with the clearing to be done on the home place, and there was always a certain amount of time spent each



L. to R. Gertrude, Mrs. Anastasia Jablonski, Vincent & Mrs. Tom Jablonski - 1934. Dressed and ready to attend the Bronek Zolkiewski Wedding.

summer doing road work for the MD to pay off the land taxes.

In Oct. of 1938 he married Alma Shilson who had moved from Montana with her parents and 3 brothers in 1923 to the Strawberry District. From this union an only son, Ernest, was born in July of 1940 at the Burgess Hospital in Thorsby.

Slowly, Vince and Alma worked at clearing and improving the farm, suffering through hail, frost, wet and the shortages of W.W.II. These hardships, though, seemed lighter when the day came that there was enough money saved for the final payment to the CPR. What a joy when the day came and they could finally say the land was theirs! The farm, "Oak Acres" is presently farmed by Ernest.

Vince and Alma were able to see such



Vincent, Alma, Ernest Jablonski -1956.

improvements as rural electrification, the installation of natural gas, telephone, and the improvements of the roads as well as the use of modern power machinery in farming.

Ernest went to Telfordville School, which was a mile west of the yard. He was in the last class (grade 8) when the school closed at the end of June, 1954. His final 4 years were taken at Thorsby. He was in the first class to graduate from the new Thorsby High School.

The family is still active in Our Lady of Victory Parish in Thorsby, while Ernest is active in Unifarm and the Thorsby Rural Fire Assoc.

IOHN KLIMOSKO

by Steve Klimosko

My parents were both born in 1901. My father, John Klimosko, was born in Leduc of early pioneers in the district. Mother (Rose Kachmar), immigrated to Canada from Tuckla, Poland to Montreal in 1925. She moved west to stay with her sister who had arrived earlier. After meeting through the introduction of mutual friends, my parents were married in 1926, and moved to my dad's farm northwest of Leduc. From these diverse backgrounds they met, married, raised 6 children, farmed, and lived through varied experiences, which has come to symbolize the Canadian culture.

On April 1, 1938, the expanding Klimosko brood sold their Leduc farm and moved to the Thorsby district. The new farm (a quarter section which had been owned by Mr. and Mrs. Buss) was bought for the grand sum of \$3500. The locale was ideal, a short jaunt by horse or a brisk walk, and only 2 miles south of Thorsby. With the help of their 4 children, Alexandra, Walter, Kenneth and myself (Steve), we moved the family's possessions by hayrack, which was the only equipment capable of taking the load. Because of the 25 mile dirt road, we had to make 2 trips.

The house on the quarter was a simple farm structure. It had 4 rooms on the ground floor and 2 bedrooms in the attic. There was a large open kitchen with an adjoining pantry, and a small washing area just to the left of the door. The ever-present slop pail was just to its right. The stove was a wood and coal burning combination hot-water heater and stove, which was the family centre as Mother would bake fresh bread to greet us when we returned home from school. The pantry was the work area which held the sources of all the glorious smells supper time would bring. I remember a pantry cupboard which stood against one wall. Through age (or the trip from Leduc), the centre drawer had become unhinged. Every time one of us opened it up, the contents would empty onto the floor.

The large living room doubled as the dining room and a huge circular table against one window usually awaited the arrival of Sunday company. Again the



The family of Mr. & Mrs. John Klimosko of Thorsby.

focal point was the potbellied stove. It sat in the centre of the room radiating its warmth to all that entered.

The main bedroom had a cellar underneath it in which Mother would put all the preserves she made during the summer. The upper attic rooms were usually cold and drafty in winter and the boys would hide under the down-filled comforters Mother had made.

All 6 of the children attended the old Weed Creek School. In the beginning there was only 1 room which housed grades 1 to 9. Later another school was added. There was then another teacher, and the class was divided in two.

My first day at school was an experience. It was snowing very heavily as I started out. At the gate I met 2 children who were more than pleased to escort me to school. All the time we were walking, I thought they were boys, but upon arriving, I found that one was a girl — Millie Kuzio, now Mrs. Kison.

The teacher at Weed Creek was John Symyrozum. He was rather abrupt and on my first day, he yelled rather loudly at members of the class. After yelling, he strapped them -- an impression I was to keep for some time.

Farming was a very demanding job that required wide diversity. Mother raised chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys. There were cows to be milked by hand, and pigs to be slopped.

After the dreaded departmental exams, given by the province, Grade 9 students went to high school at the Thorsby United Church. It was a small place.



Uncle Paul Kachman (back row) from Russia (visitor). Walter, Alexander, Edward, Steve, Dad, Kenneth.

In 1945, I started work at the Nu-Way Store and stayed there for 8 years. After this I went to live in the city, later returned to Thorsby to be in partnership in the Solo Store. The home place is now owned by me. The barn and garage remain, but the old house has been torn down.

Alexandra married Arthur Terlesky in 1951. They operated the Buford General Store for a few years, then moved to Edmonton. They have one son, Terry. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1975 with a degree in Education, and is now on the teaching staff at Garneau School.

Walter, the third oldest had been working with an oil well cementing firm in Swift Current, Sask. when he met Tina Martin and got married. They live in Red Deer and have one son, Wayne. Wayne is attending Red Deer College and hopes to graduate as a physical education teacher.

Kenneth, after leaving the farm in 1957, moved to the city, eventually entering the civil service. He is single and lives in Sherwood Park.

Edward is also a civil servant. He has been with the government for 18 years. In 1962, he married Marlene Younge and they have 3 sons: Kerry (14), Kelly (11), and Kory (8). They live on an acreage east of Beaumont, and have a small farming operation with some cattle.

Ted, the youngest, served in the Canadian Navy for 4 years, then worked for the Department of National Defence. He is now a fireman with the City of Edmonton.

Our mother died in 1955. Dad lived on the farm continually until 1977 when he moved to a retirement home in Leduc.

Thorsby has been good to us and we have many friends in and around the district. If one day we should move away, we will have many wonderful memories.

EMIL AND IRENE KNOPP

Emil Knopp, son of Fred and Erna Knopp, was born and raised on a farm just west of Thorsby where his parents still live today. His schooling was received in Thorsby from 1949 to 1962. Like any young man, he tried his hand at a few jobs after the completion of his high school. During his late teens, he worked the summer of 1962 on the construction of Highway 39 between Thorsby and Warburg. He spent a while at the UGG elevator and even tried a stint of seismographic work in northern Alberta.

None of these jobs, along with farming, interested him enough to make it a career. During the fall of 1966, he began working at Merv's Tire Shop for Merv Christenson. This job, which meant dealing with the public, he liked. Later that year when Mr. Christenson decided to sell his business to move to Ft. McMurray, Emil chose the opportunity to try a venture of his own. On Aug. 1 of 1967, he bought the tire shop and called



March 1977 - Irene, Derryl, Emil, Cheryl Knopp.

it Thorsby Tire Shop.

Also during this time Emil became acquainted with Irene Grzyb, the eldest daughter of Ted and Ann Grzyb of Breton. She was attending the U. of A. in the Faculty of Education. By the time Emil had been in the tire shop for a year and a half, they decided to be married. After their wedding, Irene continued to attend the U. of A. completing her last 4 months of teacher training and in Sept. of 1969 began employment in the Thorsby Elementary School. She still works there today, instructing Language Arts, Music, and Library Instruction.

From 1967, when Emil bought the shop, business grew and prospered as the community did. Then in the spring of 1977, construction began on a new addition by removing the "smallhouse" which had stood many years on the corner. Two bays and equipment were added to the main building, making it possible to handle any type of car, truck, tractor repair or sale. This business now employs one hired man full time as well as Emil.

Emil and Irene have made their home in Thorsby for 10 years: first a rented house, then a trailer and finally in Aug. of 1974 a new house located north of the railroad tracks. They have 2 children, Cheryl Ann and Derryl Emil. They plan to continue living in Thorsby, working at their present jobs, for some years to come.

FRED AND ERNA KNOPP

The marriage of Fred Knopp and Erna Elgert took place one very cold day on Jan. 17th in 1943 at the Gnadenthal Church near Leduc. Pastor E. Duesterhoeft performed the wedding ceremony and approximately a dozen guests gathered to help the couple celebrate the occasion. They made their home on one of the farms just west of Thorsby which once belonged to August Salhstrom, an early pioneer of the area. Andrew Knopp had previously purchased three quarters from August Salhstrom in about Nov. of 1927. When Fred and Erna were married they moved to this farm (N.W. 10-49-1 W5) which Fred had purchased from his mother, Mrs. Christina Knopp in



The Knopp Family.

Back: L. to R. (Stranger), Fred Reinholt, Irene, Alexander, Edwin.

Front: John, Christina Knopp, Herbert, Andreas Knopp.

1942. The only building on the place was a large 14 x 24 granary on cement which Mr. Salhstrom had built earlier. This was to serve as their new home.

Erna recalls how bee boxes were their first chairs and the granary door was the table top. Boxes served as dressers and closets. Their stove had come from the old Andrew Knopp homestead at Schuler near Medicine Hat. They were thankful to have a proper bedstead and one very good and warm feather-quilt as they remember well, in winter, waking up with ice around their pillows.

They recall beginning their farming career with a grand total of 3 cows, 1 heifer and 2 pigs. Mrs. Christina Brod gave Erna her first 2 clucking hens, and Mrs. Steve Sulz donated the eggs. It looked as though there would be a fine batch of baby chicks until the dog decided to have a fine feast of hatching eggs. Needless to say, it was the dog's last meal!

The house, though small, soon became home for the Knopp's and in Oct., 1943, their eldest child, Emil, was born and about two years later in Aug., 1945, their first daughter. Beverley Darlene was born.

These were busy times for Fred and Erna as every pail of water was either hauled by means of milk cans from the neighbor's or from the village of Thorsby. Wood and coal were packed to help heat the house and ashes were carried out. All the washing was done on a wash board and mending was done by hand. Spun wool was knitted into winter stockings and mittens. Old suits were taken apart to make new trousers. Yards of flannel were changed into shirts and under garments.

Winter months were busy for Fred as he cut timber at August Comm's farm near Warburg. Lumber was sawed on the Knopp sawmill.

Improvements in the buildings came next. In 1943, a log barn was built and plastered with mud. Then a chicken coop and a granary were added to the farmyard. In 1945, a new kitchen was added to the small house.

Horses served for about a year as a means of transportation and for doing field work until Fred made one of his famous "trades" for a tractor--a John Deere, he remembers.

Keeping food on the table meant hours of work. Since there were no deep freezers, almost all the meat

which was butchered at home was either canned or smoked. In winter, it might be frozen in snow and stored in the bin of oats. Fish were smoked along with homemade sausage. Cream and milk were kept fresh in the bottom of a dug well. Even during the summer. the well would often have ice in it which helped keep the dairy products fresh. In summer, blueberries, cranberries, raspberries, and strawberries were picked. Erna remembers how she, along with the help of Mrs. Fred King, canned 130 quarts of cranberry jelly one fall. Preserves usually totaled between 700-800 quarts each season when the family was young. All the vegetables were home grown and, in fall, gallons of sauerkraut would be made. This was made in a barrel and during the winter one went out with an axe and pail to chop out a meal of frozen "kraut". Bread, as much as 22 loaves a week, was baked. Chickens, ducks, and geese were always kept for meat and eggs.

By the late '40's, things began to look brighter. A sewing machine and a gas washing machine eased the household duties. Even a new set of wear-ever pots were bought from one of the many door-to-door salesmen who travelled about at the time. More room in the kitchen was badly needed for additional space. A Case tractor bought from Fred King, a truck, a McCormick seed drill and a threshing machine got the field work done faster.

1945-1946 were very devastating years for farming as hail from 50-100% damaged crops each of these years. During these years, Fred began working out, driving truck, hauling lumber and telephone posts to help finances. Erna and the 2 youngsters carried on with the farming to help make ends meet.

They recall one winter evening when they started out for Fred Elgert's farmstead with a tractor and sleigh. Somewhere along the route the sled came loose and it was only after Fred had travelled some distance down the road that he realized his load was rather light. Between the big parka, the snow flurries, and the noise of the tractor, he had lost his passengers and sleigh. That same evening a terrible blizzard blew up and they recall how fortunate they were to get safely home with the 2 children.

The heavy rain of 1945 brings back some memories for Fred and Erna, too. The Weed Creek which flows through their yard, had flooded. The railroad bridge and the bridge west of Thorsby were both washed out. They remember how Mr. Brod's team of horses drowned in the creek from the high water as he tried to take the milk to town. During the same storm, a traveller on horseback while attempting to swim his horse across the creek, was carried away with the fast water. Luckily, he caught the limb of a tree and Edwin Knopp finally rescued the fellow with Mr. Matt Samardzic's boat.

In 1950, the Knopp's second daughter, Doreen, was born and in 1954 Deborah, daughter number 3, was born.

By now, they had drilled a well and increased the size of their farming operation. They began renting more land so that they were growing over 100 acres of wheat, barley, and oats combined. All the grain was fed to cattle and pigs or sold to the local elevator. In 1955, another farm was purchased from Sam and Jonah Meckle at Sunnybrook. By 1958, haying had changed from pitchforks and a sweep to baled hay. Grain was no longer threshed but combined. In 1954, electricity had added yet another convenience for their farming operation.

In 1958, the Knopps purchased the St. Matthew's Lutheran parsonage to serve as a new house. They recall how much the neighbors helped them, moving their new home to its present day site.

The 1960's saw vast improvements and changes. A growing family helped make work easier. A new barn was built in 1961 and instead of 8 or 9 cows, as many as 27 were milked, the milk being sold to the local cheese factory. Instead of 2 hogs there were 200. A hired man, Tom Brown who was Thorsby's first police officer, patrolled Thorsby by night and worked as hired man on the farm by day. The hogs were sold to the Blindman Valley buying station. Bigger tractors, swather, combine, and better haying equipment, all helped increase the number of acres which the Knopps farmed.

By this time the family was grown up and a rash of weddings began! In 1966, Dec. 26, their oldest daughter, Beverley Darlene, married Walter Laba. They moved to a farm at Calmar where they still live today with their family of 3; Perry, Jerry and Sheila.

On Aug. 1, 1967, Doreen Dianne, their second daughter, married Murray Schrader, of Bowden. For a while they lived in Thorsby and then they moved to Drayton Valley where Murray drove truck in the oil industry. Then, in 1974, they returned to Thorsby to operate a dairy farm. They lived 2 years at Fred and Erna's but in March of 1977, they bought a farm near Sunnybrook where they reside today with their 2 daughters, Tammie and Tracilee. They operate their own farm, milking approximately 50 cows.

On Dec. 27, 1968, their son, Emil, married Irene Grzyb, of Breton. They reside in Thorsby with their children, Cheryl and Derryl.



Fred Knopp Family.

Back: Debbie, Doreen, Darlene, Emil. Front: Erna & Fred. - March

Debbie Sharon, their youngest daughter, married Grant Eklund of Glen Park on July 20, 1973. Grant is involved in the building industry and so he and Debbie lived for some time in Grande Prairie and Ft. McMurray. Since March of 1977, they have resided in Leduc with their 2 sons, Craig and Chris.

With the family all married and gone, Fred and Erna decided to keep only a few hogs for butchering and to quit the dairy completely, keeping a few head of beef cattle to sell each fall. He chose to increase the grain growing operation and today is grain farming several hundred acres between his own land and that which he rents.

Fred and Erna have seen many changes since 1943 when they began a life together. From long hours of manual labor to the mechanized world of their modern farming operation, many changes have occured. Thinking back, there were many hardships and disappointments which they have endured, but there are also many good memories of times much harder than those of today. Looking back, they will always think of them as the "good old days" when life had a simpleness and a goodness that we must look hard to find in today's busy way of life.

REINHOLT KNOPP

I was born on May 4, 1913 and shortly after that, in Nov. of 1914, my parents, Christina and Andraes Knopp and my older brother, Alex, made the long voyage from Bessarabia, Russia, to Montreal, Canada. We then took a train to Medicine Hat, Alberta, where we lived for a short time. Then we moved to a farm between Schuler and Hilda. It was during that time that I lost my hearing and remained totally deaf for about 6 months. I finally regained most of my hearing but I was still hard of hearing.

One day, when I was about 8 years old, my brother Alex and I were playing at a neighbour's and the children were making fun of me because of my hearing problem, so I went home. I found my brother's windball, and was having a great time bouncing it. As luck would have it, I bounced that ball until it bounced right into the well. I looked down the well and cried until my eyes became accustomed to the dark hole. Then I could see the ball floating on the water. My dad used a pail and picket chain to pull water, and I couldn't leave that ball down there so I let the pail down the well until it touched water. I tied the chain real tight so it wouldn't slip, and climbed down the chain about 35 feet to the water. The last 10 feet were hard because the chain was cold and wet. I finally got the ball, tucked it into the bib of my overalls and climbed out. Just then my brother came home and asked where I had been. It was many years later that I told him where I really had been.

In 1923, when the drought came, my parents got together with 2 neighbours, August Ruff and John



The Knopp Home, which was the former August Sahlstrom home. This served as the Thorsby Post Office for some time. The sign above the door is still there. L. to R. Elmer, Reinholt and Herbert Knopp.

Bauman, and decided to move their families to Thorsby. These 3 families stayed together and moved with horses and a 10" x 16" hay rack for a moving van. It took about 2 months. The horses that were not used for the wagon train were tied to the rear of the wagon, and the sum of 60 cows were herded by 3 cowboys, Bill Bauman, 13 years of age, Sam Ruff, 13 and I (Reinholt Knopp), who was 10 years old. Sometimes strange cows got into the herd, and we had a tough time separating them, but after a week or two were so good that if other riders came to help us, we told them not to bother — we were used to it.

We were in Thorsby only a short time when my father bought the August Sahlstrom farm. This was in 1928. Mr. Sahlstrom had come originally from a place in Sweden called Thorsby, so when he decided to open a post office on his farm, he named it Thorsby, and put a sign above the door of the house. This was how our town got its name and this was our original Thorsby home.

One year my brother, Alex, and I went into the business of fixing horse's teeth and dehorning cattle. We fixed, pulled, and filed teeth and we dehorned cows, bulls and goats. For 2 years, we worked together and then one day Alex took sick with typhoid fever and died. Eventually I picked up another partner, and only taking my most necessary tools, we worked our way north toward the North Saskatchewan River. It was late in the fall and the weather was unsettled, so one night we crossed the ferry at Genesee and stayed the night at a farmer's. The weather got cold and my partner left me and took a few tools that were his. Then he took the ferry out, so I was stuck there. I needed to get home and pick up some more of my tools and the bus would have taken every cent I made so I decided to try and climb across the ferry cable. I tried it first and went about 100 feet and came back. Then I tried again and came back and told Alf Wegner, I was going across. When I was about a third of the way, he called to me and said if I came back he'd give me bus fare, but I kept going. I made it across in about an hour and fifteen minutes. I was tired but happy that I'd made it.

I hitched a ride to Thorsby then and picked up my



Reinholt and Helen Knopp's 25th Wedding Anniversary.

tools, and since I had lost my wallet in the river coming across, I had no bus money again, so since my horse and rig were on the other side, I really had to get back there again. I gathered my tools and got back to Genesee about eight the next morning. I tied my tools to my back in a bag and started across the cable again. After about 300 yards, I was exhausted. The tools weighed about 20 pounds but felt like 100. I hung on to that cable almost 2 hours and the last 4 feet were almost impossible. When I finally climbed onto the derrick platform, I blacked out. After I came to, I saw my hands were cut, blistered and bleeding.

A few years later I did some amateur boxing and wrestling. Then in 1940, I met Helen Schabert. Helen was the daughter of Albert and Emma Schabert. We were married on Jan. 29, 1941. We had 5 children. The first, Wilfred, died at birth. Then came Evelyn, Erwin, Adline, and Wilbert. After that I had various occupations. I worked on the section crew laying ties for the railroad; I worked on the pipeline for Purity 99. Then I worked on the oil rigs. After that I went into the logging industry felling trees. I also ran a few sawmills.

Helen and I have moved approximately 60 times since our marriage. Our children have all grown up and made homes for themselves. Evelyn married Herb Saunders and lives in Nanaimo, B.C. Herb has a Gradall business, and they have 3 children: Lena, Adline, and Howard. Erwin met Bernice Hillier while working in Nova Scotia, and when he returned to Calgary, he sent for her and they were married in Calgary. "Bernie" is originally from Newfoundland, and Erwin owns his own business designing, building and repairing machinery. They have a son, Darryl and a daughter, Lee-ann. Adline moved to Calgary in 1966, and met and married Dale Roesler from Saskatchewan in 1970. They have a daughter, Amy and a son, Tyler. Dale works for an Engineering firm in Calgary. Wilbert still lives the single life and has lived in Calgary for several years. He has had several types of work, including the sawmill and drilling industry like his father.

At this time in 1978, Helen and I live on the Elmer Knopp farm in Warburg and plan to move to a property near Thorsby where the family prays they will finally settle down.

REINHOLT KNOPP — THE UNSUNG HERO

by Patricia Lefsrud

Powerful muscles, acquired by dint of hard work on farms and in the lumber woods, coupled with lungs, well-developed through long distance running, provided the stamina which enabled Reinholt Knopp to perform the most daring feat of courage and endurance ever heard of in these parts.

November 15, 1937, Reinhold, twenty-three years old, crossed the North Saskatchewan River, on the Holborn Ferry, to meet his friend, on the north side, where the two planned to earn some extra

money--floating (filing) horses teeth.

However, the joint undertaking turned out to be short-lived. His partner had to depart after a week's time, taking his floating instruments with him, thus leaving young Knopp stranded, as it were, without tools to carry on the project, alone.

The only thing for him to do was to return to his home, near Thorsby, a dozen miles to the southeast, to get his own tools. But, unfortunately, during the very cold November nights, ice had been forming along the edges of the river, finally rendering it un-navigable by the ferry near Genesee.

Reinholt was in a quandry. He had to cross to the south side somewhere, somehow. The nearest crossing was Edmonton's High Level bridge, about twenty-five miles to the northeast -- too far away!

To the impatient, husky, young man there appeared to be only one way to cross the water--hand-over-hand on the heavy, one-third-of-a-mile long, steel cable, strung between, and

anchored to the opposing river banks.

Methodically, Reinholt Knopp climbed the north ferry tower, grasped the cold steel cable, swung his legs up to catch it with improvised hooks strapped to his ankles, then, with his 198-pound body dangling, proceeded, hand-over-hand to cross the broad river. (This was a gruelling test in which the average man would more than likely have failed miserably, being, perhaps, able to cover barely fifty feet, let alone one third of a mile, before dropping into the swift current below.)

Reinholt recalls that the going wasn't "too tough" until he was half-way across; after that it was all up-hill on the sagging cable.

However, neither too tired nor daunted, he landed on the south bank, from where he immediately commenced trudging the twelve odd miles to Thorsby.

That accomplished, he trudged the following morning, the same miles back to the river crossing at Genesee, hoisted himself, plus the extra weight of twenty pounds of instruments strapped to his body, onto the cable and set out to re-cross the river.

He says he became a "little fatigued" on that return crossing; also, his hands became galled when his gloves

wore out.

Reinholt Knopp is still with us to vouch for facts in this true story.

THE FRED KUZIO FAMILY

by Verna Kuzio

On the 18th of May, 1962; Fred Kuzio and Verna Zingle were married. My husband is the youngest son of Mike and Mary Kuzio; and I am George and Alice Zingle's only daughter. We made our home with my parents until our new house was built. Fred was Matt Samardzic's I.H.C. partsman.





Verna and Fred Kuzio in 1979.

Their children Garnett and LaReina.

In 1963, we moved into our new home located on the yard where Fred grew up. We started a chicken ranch which gradually grew into a semi-automated 6600 hen business. These hens were housed in one barn, utilizing cages to accomodate more chickens per square foot. Fred's subsequent job at the local liquor store, with a regular income, was more feasible than the risk of farming; so, in 1974, the last flock of hens was sold.

Fred, is at the present time, employed as a clerk at the A.L.C.B. store in Thorsby; and he does relief managing for the board when the need arises. The farmland is leased out and we, along with our son Garnett (born in 1965) and daughter LaReina (1969), enjoy the yard and our new home. Our first house was sold to Stanley Hoffman who had it moved into Thorsby. Our new home was built in 1974.



Fred Kuzio Home.

GEORGE MEDISKY

Born Harry George Medisky on April 7, 1888, he was one of four sons and three daughters born to Paul and Telia Medisky in Stubenko City - Peremyel in Western Ukraine. George's mother died when the children were still young and his father immigrated to Canada bringing with him the children; George, Andrew, Mary, Katie, Jack, Barbara and Anne. Upon arriving in early May of 1904, Paul acquired a quarter section homestead (NW 12-49-1-W5), homesteading it on Oct. 12, 1904. It was 1 ½ miles south west of what was later to become the town of Thorsby.

George lived on the homestead and worked on the CPR, building the railway west of Leduc. He proved so diligent at his job that he soon became flagman. From his earnings he was later able to purchase the homestead from his father and acquire two additional quarters in future years. On October 5, 1908 George became a naturalized Canadian citizen.

Mary Fedan was born March 15, 1891 to Annie and Harry Fedan in Lasski City - Yaroslaw only a few miles from where her future husband was born. It wasn't until she immigrated to Canada with her brothers, Fred and John, in the spring of 1904 to settle in Leduc, that she was to meet George. When Mary and George were married in 1911, George's father Paul, who was an accomplished violinist, supplied the music for the wedding festivities. George and Mary were blessed with ten children; four daughters and six sons. The youngest son, Harry, born July 2, 1927,



George & Mary Medisky.

lived only five short weeks, dying August 7, 1927.

In the early part of their marriage the young couple lived with George's father until they were able to build a home of their own. After selling the homestead to his son, Paul set up a small shoemaker's business on the family farm. He was active in his trade until his death on May 2, 1926. Paul's other sons and daughters left home and settled throughout Western Canada and the United States.

George and Mary suffered the usual hardships confronting all pioneers. Some of their brothers and sisters were victims of the 1918 influenza epidemic. Hand labour was a way of life. It was difficult to attain sufficient funds to acquire livestock. However, with perseverance and the help of their children, they soon progressed from hand labour to mechanized farm equipment. Not only were farming techniques and



George Medisky checking a beehive without the usual protective gear. He often said, "Bees will not sting if you treat them gently and don't fear them". Taken in 1943.

equipment improved, but as early as 1935, conveniences such as electricity and a water system were installed in the Medisky house.

George had interests other than the usual farm activities. Some two acres surrounding a large storey home were devoted to an orchard and exotic shrubs and trees. The orchard was dotted with some fifty beehives. Visitors were frequent, coming from a hundred-mile radius to view the orchard and purchase fruit and honey. His love of the land and the hard work put forth by the Medisky family was acknowledged when he was given the Master Farmers Award.

On October 20, 1956 George Medisky passed away quietly at his farm home at the age of 69. He was buried in the Greek Orthodox Cemetery east of Thorsby. Mary lived in the farm home until a new home was built for her in Thorsby where she lived until overcome by illness. She died of a stroke at the age of 80 in the Rosehaven Nursing Home in Camrose on November 2, 1969 and was buried beside her husband in the family plot.

The eldest son, Michael, predeceased his mother when, at the age of 49, he died in a plane crash which also killed his son-in-law. Mike held his teacher's certificate and at the time of his death was owner-operator of Sedgewick Motors & Electric. He lived in Sedgewick with his wife, Tiny, and their son Ted. Their daughter, Georgina, lived in Sedgewick with her husband Edward Eldey. Georgina has since remarried.

William, the second eldest son, earned his mechanics license while serving in the army. As co-owner and operator of Sedgewick Motors, Bill and his family lived in Sedgewick for many years. He then sold out to his older brother, Mike moved to Edmonton with his wife Donna, daughters Betty-Anne, Judy and Mary-lou and his son Perry. Bill was

the owner of South Bend Service for many years.

Carrie, the eldest daughter, moved to Calgary early in life where she met and married Ray Miller. They have 2 children, Darlene and Raymond. Ray has since died.

Lois soon followed her sister to Calgary. She married George Jarret. They have 2 children, Douglas and Jacqueline. George passed away in April, 1968.

John, the third son, left the farm early. He married Betty Callaway, while serving in the R.C.A.F. during W.W.2. Shortly after the marriage the young couple moved to Vashon Island, Washington, U.S.A. They have one son, David who is an officer in the United States Airforce, stationed in Alaska. He is an accomplished pianist, is married and they have two children.

Andrew stayed on with his father to help run the farm. He married Jean Greenhough of the Genesee district and shortly after, moved to Edmonton where Andy took up carpentry. They have 4 daughters; Peggi, Joanne, Barbara, and Stacy.

Rose moved to Edmonton where she found employment as a secretary. She married Robert Neid of Thorsby. They subsequently moved to Vancouver, then Winnipeg, and have now settled in Calgary. They have 1 son, Greg, and a daughter, Pamela.

After high school, Peter, the youngest son, joined the Air Force where he served for a number of years. After coming out of the forces, he stayed for a short while on the farm and then moved into Edmonton. He married Kathy and they had 2 boys, Kevin and Wayne. Peter now resides in Haney, B.C.

Leona, the youngest daughter, took her teacher's training and received her teacher's certificate. Married in Yellowknife to Phil Pickard of Thorsby, they remained in the north for 2 years. They took up residence in Edmonton where they lived for a number of years. Phil passed away in 1958. Leona continued to live in Edmonton. Before leaving the Thorsby area, Leona taught in Centre Lodge, Dniester, and Thorsby.

THE SAMUEL OCKERT STORY

By Edith Ockert Sorenson

Samuel Ockert, born April 11, 1873, and Justina Ohrn, born July 25, 1880, were married in 1899.

Samuel learned a trade as a boy. He worked with his father in the blacksmith shop and was able to do any job or make anything he was asked to.

Samuel and Justina had their first child, John, on Feb.2, 1901. A set of twin boys were born in 1903, but they were lost at birth. The next child was a girl, Mary. When Mary was a baby, Samuel and Justina emigrated from Chickarova, Romania to Bismark, North Dakota in 1906. There Samuel started a blacksmith shop. He really liked the shop and liked to make all kinds of things, such as grubhoes, axes, and augers. The augers were used to make holes for fence posts.



Samuel & Justina Okert about 1905 holding Eva, Mary and John standing.

While living in North Dakota, they had 3 more children - Eva born in 1908, another set of twin boys whom they also lost as babies, and another girl Rosie born in Oct. 1911.

Samuel and Justina looked for greener fields so in 1914 they moved to Big Stick Lake, Sask. where he bought a half section of land. It was close to Maple Creek, Sask. They also had another boy, Sam, born Oct. 24, 1914. Samuel started up a blacksmith shop at Maple Creek.

In 1917 Gloria (Emma) was born and Ruth was born Oct. 19, 1919. The last of the Ockert children, Edith, was born Dec. 21, 1921.

In 1926 the entire family moved to Alberta where they bought a C.P.R. farm 1½ miles south of Thorsby. There was a school called Weed Creek 2 miles south and 1 mile east of where Thorsby is now located.

Samuel Ockert built a blacksmith shop there and Melvin Anderson had a store. Thorsby was not yet built. Years later, when it was built, Samuel moved his blacksmith shop to Thorsby and ran the shop for some time, then moved it to the home place. Here he worked for himself and also for a lot of farmers in the district.

Samuel Ockert passed away Sept. 13, 1951 aged 82. His wife Justina passed away May 8, 1958 aged 78. They were predeceased by their daughters Mary, Mrs. Ed Bauman, in 1928 and Eva, Mrs. Evalt Paul, on March 23, 1943. Gloria (Emma), Mrs. John Byers, passed away in Sept. 1969 and Rosie, Mrs. Nick Kenner, passed away in April 1978.

John and Ruth both live in Coldwell, Ontario,. Sam is at Warburg part of the time and at Whitecourt Alberta the rest of the time. Edith, Mrs. Harlow Sorenson, lives with her husband at Wizard Lake where they moved in the spring of 1942.

FAMILY OF TONY AND HAZEL ONESKI

Related by Andrew Oneski

Tony Oneski immigrated to Canada from Poland in 1913 and settled in Calgary. He married his wife Hazel in 1914 and worked for the city. Later he worked for the C.P.R. on a section gang. They had a family of two: Andrew, born in 1915, and Mary in 1922.

Later on he went up to the Thorsby district where his wife had relatives living, (they were the John Popiks) and looked for a farm. He found a quarter of C.P.R. land 1 mile west and 2 miles south of Thorsby. He paid about \$2100.00 cash for it.



Andrew Oneski with sister Mary and parents Tony & Hazel.

Andrew remembers, "When my parents moved from Calgary, Dad and I had quite an experience riding in a box car that we rented from the C.P.R. We had a big wagon, team of horses, one cow and some chickens. We brought them along with us. Mother and my sister Mary rode on the train with the rest of our belongings.

When we arrived in Leduc, John Popik was there to meet us and helped to unload all of our animals and belongings. Then we started out for his farm at Buford. We stayed there for about two weeks until we got a little shack built on our own farm. In the middle of March 1929 we moved onto our own quarter which would be our home from that time on."

The land was all bush and we cleared it by hand. Over the years we have added buildings and a new house. It is now a very comfortable home for my family.

Mary married Peter Pankewicz in 1938 and moved to his farm south of Sunnybrook. He was the oldest son of Mrs. and Mrs. Steve Pankewicz of the Dniester district.

I, the only son, remained at home helping my parents. In 1959, I married Hazel Brozny, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brozny who lived near us.

My parents retired to Thorsby in 1965 and bought a house there. I took over the farm and continued to develop it. It is all cleared now and close to a paved highway.

Mary and Peter had 5 children: Elaine, Leona, George, Shirley and Karen.

Hazel and I have 3 children: George, Patsy and



Andrew & Hazel Oneski & family.

Cindy. George graduated from Thorsby High School in 1978 and in 1979 is working in the N.A.D.P. plant in Thorsby. He had worked at carpentering previously in Claresholm and Edmonton. Patsy is in high school and Cindy also attends school in Thorsby.

My mother passed away in 1973 at the age of 77. Our father lives alone in their home in Thorsby and looks after himself.

Mary's husband Peter died in June of 1968 and after their family were all grown up she left the farm. sold it to her son George, and moved to B.C. She lives in Prince George and likes it there.

STEVE AND MINNIE PASULA

by Treasa Ruff

Steve Pasula was born in Poland on February 8, 1881 and arrived in Canada when he was 24 years old. He came to the Nisku district where he worked in a coal mine and on the railroad. When he was 27 years old, he married Minnie Motchko. This was in 1911.

Minnie was born in Poland on November 26, 1892 and had come to Canada with her parents when she was about 6 years old. Her family farmed in the Nisku

Steve and Minnie Pasula continued to live in the Nisku area with Steve working out. A daughter, Anne, twins John and Mike, and a son, Luke, were born here. Later, when they lived in the Thorsby area, another daughter, Genevieve, was welcomed into the family.

In 1917 the family bought some homestead land which is southwest of Thorsby now, location -NE-10-1-49-W5. John Schurek owned this quarter previously. The first post office was on the next quarter so the Pasula family saw Thorsby develop from then on.

There were 6 acres of cleared land and much bush and water. There was a log house and barn which housed the family, their 2 horses, and a few cows.

There was always work to be done. They all worked at clearing the trees with a grub hoe and axe. Willow posts were cut and hauled to Leduc in the winter to trade for groceries. Tamarack posts and wheat were also hauled to Leduc which was always an all-day job. For a few years Steve Pasula hauled mail from Thorsby to Dnipro post office on horseback.

The land was worked with a walking plow. The children can remember their father carrying a sack of grain and seeding by hand. Their neighbor, August Sahlstrom, cut the grain with his binder. Walter Arp came and did the threshing before the Pasula family had their own equipment.

The children went to the Weed Creek School by walking the 3½ miles to it. The Christmas concert there was a community gathering and caused much excitement.

There were no fences and the cows roamed freely. One or more of the children would start out at two o'clock in the afternoon in the wooded area surrounding the buildings to find their milk cows with no idea of just where to look. If you heard the cow bell you were lucky and were home early, but often it was dark and you may have become quite lost by the time you arrived home. Sometimes you had to go home and begin again looking for the cows in the morning. This chore was often done barefoot during the times of the



John Pasula in 1939

year when the weather permitted.

There were plenty of rabbits and prairie chickens. and especially during the winter months, these helped

to provide appetizing meals.

The boys worked on the threshing crews in the fall to earn money. The pay was \$1.00 a day and at times it was a 16-hour day. John can remember working on the railroad in 1938. It was an 8-hour day and the pay was 25¢ an hour. One winter he worked in Plamondon in a saw mill to make money. Each year more land was cleared on their own homestead land.

Anne married John Ripka and they spent some of their life in Thorsby where he was foreman on the railroad.

Mike married Millie Powlik. They lived east of Thorsby for some years and had one son and 2 daughters. They presently live in Edmonton.

John, other than working out at times, continued to live at home. From 1966 to 1974 he helped manage the Snack Bar in Thorsby. In 1972, he married Hazel

Luke presently lives in Vancouver.

Genevieve married Alec Hanas and resides in

Edmonton. One son and one daughter were born to them.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Pasula lived on their quarter of land until 1970 when they moved into Thorsby. Mr. Pasula passed away that same year and his wife in 1974.

HISTORY OF THE PATRICK FAMILY 1904 - 1978

written by Sam Patrick November 1, 1978

In 1904, Peter Patrick (Petryk) arrived in Canada from the Western Ukraine, which is now a part of Poland. He was 20 years of age. There were unsatisfactory political and economic conditions in that land during that era. All young men 21 years of age were conscripted into the army for three years. Due to these circumstances, Peter and two of his friends of the same age (Mike Buchak and Mike Sinoski), decided to immigrate to Canada. Peter and his friends arrived by ship at an eastern seaport of Canada. Peter would never again see his family, except for two of his nephews who immigrated to Canada, years later.

Peter arrived in Edmonton by train and secured a job as a laborer on a farm. In the years to follow, he held a variety of jobs, locating work wherever it was available. After some years, Peter went looking for a homestead north of Vegreville. There, he met Tatiana (Tillie) Chanasyk.

Tillie Chanasyk was born in Wyszatyce, Poland in 1894. She emigrated to Canada in 1903 with her parents, Stefan and Catharina Chanasyk, four sisters and three brothers. Another sister and brother were born in Canada. They established their home on a homestead north of Vegreville at a town named Musidora. Tillie did not receive any formal education because there were no schools near her home. However, the valuable knowledge she acquired from life itself shaped her into a wonderful person, friend and mother.

Growing up on the homestead was not an easy life, but Tillie enjoyed the hard work she and her family necessarily endured to ensure their livelihood. Tillie mainly recalled the times of happiness rather than the times of hardships.

Tillie and Peter were married in 1912 and made their home in Edmonton for a short while. In the same year, Father (Peter) filed on a homestead west of Leduc (N.W. 22-49-1-W5). He brought his wife to the homestead where they lived for 42 years. In 1919, he purchased another quarter (S.W. 27-49-1-W5) of C.P.R. land across from their home. Father built a log house for their first home. It consisted of 1 large room partly partitioned off to make a second smaller room. The floor was constructed with boards which were washed weekly with a brush and lye solution to make them white. Walls were stuffed with moss in between the logs, then plastered over with clay mud. When



Dad and Mother about 1950.

dried, it was white-washed with lime, making their appearance gleamy white. Few items of furniture could be afforded in those first years. Most pieces were hand made with the exception of coal and wood stoves. Beds were constructed out of small logs and the mattress was stuffed with hay. After some years elapsed, a second home was purchased and moved onto their farm. This building consisted of 2 rooms upstairs and 2 rooms on the lower level. A further extension was built and this extra space was utilized as a kitchen. There was a heater on each level of the house. On cold mornings, Mother would rise early to make fire in the two heaters and the kitchen stove so that it would be nice and cozy when the family woke up.

In 1939, a modern home was built for them on the farm by Mr. Nick Senetchko, which they lived in until 1954

Father started farming with two oxen. They also served as the major mode of transportation. Later, he bought one horse and soon they replaced oxen for farm work. At one point in time, Father had as many as 12 horses. In about 1942, he bought his first tractor.

In the early years of homesteading, Father worked in the coal mines at Drumheller and Lethbridge to earn a living, leaving mother alone with small children. On many occasions, she had to leave the children home alone, praying that they would be safe, while she went to locate the few cows that they owned. The cows often wandered far from home because there were no fences to keep them contained. Numerous times they were found on what is now Mrs. Hale's farm. We need to remember that the land was covered with dense bush at that time.

Mother and Father also raised pigs, sheep, chickens, and turkeys. The first week of December was turkey-butchering time. The entire family and perhaps a neighbor or two would participate to help pluck the turkeys. Work commenced in the early morning and by afternoon, Father would pack the turkeys on the sleigh to sell them in town. There were few roads to traverse at the time. The nearest town was Leduc.

A creamery was built later in Calmar where Father sold his cream to be made into butter. When the railroad was built from Thorsby to Edmonton, the cream was shipped by train. Soon, a cheese factory was erected in Thorsby and milk was sold there to make cheese. Then, Father hauled the milk with horses and a buggy to town in the summer, and via horse-drawn sleigh in the winter. Eggs were also sold and this was how they earned extra money to buy groceries and clothes.

The church became the central meeting place and centre of socialization. Once each month the priest travelled from Edmonton to provide country folk with a worship service. The entire family, dressed in their finest, made the trek to the neighborhood church. On some of the church holidays, a gala church picnic was held. It was an opportunity for friends and neighbors to meet and mingle. It was an occasion where people from near and far gathered and all joined in the celebrations of the day.

In 1954, my parents retired from the farm to live in the town of Thorsby. Father passed away on Jan. 3, 1960 at the age of 75.

While Mother lived in town, she was very active in church work. She was a member of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League, a group of dedicated women who catered to numerous social functions. The money earned assisted in the construction and maintenance of their new church on the southern outskirts of Thorsby. Mother loved to visit and be visited and her hearty laugh was a delight to hear. Her hospitality will be long remembered by many, in addition to the scrumptuous meals she always served. Mother passed away on March 13, 1974 at the age of 80.



Peter Petryck 1924, Katie and Mary.



1934, Alex old home place.

When Alberta was celebrating its Golden Jubilee in 1955, both Father and Mother had their names placed on a cairn honoring district pioneers living in Alberta before 1905. It is located in Jubilee Park at Wizard Lake. Each was awarded "The Golden Jubilee Senior Citizens' Award of the Province of Alberta", a scroll given from the Government of Alberta and signed by Ernest C. Manning, and Provincial Secretary A. J. Hooke.

To this marriage, 5 children were born; Samuel, Steve, Kate, Mary, and Alexander.

Steve Patrick was born on December 3, 1915. He attended Telfordville School for all of his elementary and high school education. Camrose Normal School was his next venture, where he completed a course and became a teacher. He taught school at Sunset House in the Peace River country and at another point in Alberta. About 1938, he travelled to Montreal, Quebec, and became employed by Canadian Vickers, doing war work as a mechanical engineer.

Following the war he moved to Winona, Ont. where he bought a vineyard and grew concord grapes. As a sideline, he became a tinsmith. In the interim, he returned to university and obtained his Bachelor of Education degree. He was forced to sell his vineyard

because of a new highway which was being built through it. Next, he moved to York, Ont. where he taught school for a number of years. In July of 1978 he retired from teaching to spend leisure hours at home in York.

In Jan. of 1940, Steve married Josephine Fundytus of Myrnam, Alberta. Josie was also a teacher. They have 3 grown daughters: Mrs. Bill (Mildred) Pridmore, Mrs. Erik (Alice) Schmuk, and Miss Joan Patrick. Steve and Josie are the proud grandparents of 3 grandsons — Robert, James and Andrew Pridmore.

Kate (Kay) Patrick was born on Oct. 3, 1918. She obtained part of her education in the Telfordville School. In 1930, Thorsby built its first school and Kay received the remainder of her education there. She resided at home until about 1942 when she obtained work in Edmonton. After some time she moved to Vancouver, B.C. to be employed there. Kay married Bill Inks and to this union one son, Delbert, was born. They lived in New Westminister, B.C. till 1978. Kay now resides in Penticton, B.C.

Mary Patrick was born on Feb. 22, 1920. She obtained a portion of her education in Telfordville School, then joined her sister Kay when Thorsby School opened and completed her elementary and part of her high school education. Mary married Peter Lickoch of Sunnybrook on Nov. 20, 1939. They moved onto their farm (S.W. 18-49-1-W5) 3½ miles west of Thorsby. They farmed together there for 27 years. Peter passed away in June of 1966. She married Max Koziak of Leduc some years later. The farm was sold and they moved to Edmonton where they presently reside.

Alexander (Alex) Patrick was born on Feb. 2, 1928. He attended Thorsby schools for his education. After he left school, he went to Winona, Ont. to work for a short time. Alex returned to Thorsby and farmed with his father and then took over the operation of the home place when his parents retired. Alex married Julia Prytula of Thorsby in 1947. To this union 3



Sam Patrick & son Douglas 1944 on his father's first tractor.

children were born; Gary, Darryl, and Marlene. They got their education in Thorsby. Julia Patrick passed away in 1972 after a lengthy illness. Alex and Darryl still reside on the home place. Gary is married and living in Leduc, and Marlene resides in Edmonton.

I, Sam Patrick, the eldest of the Patrick family, was born on August 17, 1913. I went to the Telfordville School which was 21/2 miles west of our home on part of the N.E. guarter 20-49-1-W5. I received my elementary and part of my junior high school education there. My one and only teacher was Mrs. Fred Grant. When I was about 14 years old I became the janitor of the school. I walked to the school, often on very bitter cold, dark winter mornings to start the fire and heat the school for the day. After the school day, I completed my duties then walked back home in the dark. Children who lived a great distance from the school travelled by horse and buggy or by sleigh in the winter. There was a small barn to stable the horses when the weather was cold. Many oldtimers received their formal education in that school.

I lived at home until I was about 20 years of age, working there and in the surrounding district. In 1937, I became employed with the Northern Alberta Railways on a Bridge and Building crew. In the years to follow, I worked between Edmonton and Waterways (Fort McMurray) and Dawson Creek, B.C., maintaining and building railway bridges. In 1938 I was stationed at Lac La Biche. There I met Marianne (Mary) Bensen. We were married on July 1, 1939. On Dec. 23, 1939 we went to Montreal. My brother Steve was living there at that time. We lived in Montreal until spring (I worked at any odd jobs available), then we returned to Edmonton. I went back to work for the railroad until December. Once more Mary and I travelled to Montreal. This time I got into war work for the Canadian Vickers as a machinist working on Turret Lathes. At Vickers, they built aircraft, merchant ships and corvettes. A year later, I left Vickers to be employed by the Montreal Locomotive Works, where they built war tanks. I worked on the engine lathes and made parts for the tanks. A year later I was promoted to Supervisor of the Engine Lathes Department. I held that position until April of 1944 when we left Montreal to return to Thorsby to help my father with farming, since it was difficult to hire farm help during W.W. II. In May, I bought my own farm (S.E. 27-49-1 W5) from Kenneth Foy. Mr. Foy was one of our oldtimer neighbors who had come to the district with his parents in the 1920s. In 1959, I acquired the next quarter section to the west. We moved onto this farm in 1946. In the summer of 1946, two severe hailstorms ravaged the countryside wiping out my crop. Again, I sought employment elsewhere. In 1947, a second oil well in the county of Leduc was being drilled, located north of Telfordville, on Mac Grant's farm. I procured employment on that rig that fall. On Oct. 27, 1947, after $2\frac{1}{2}$ months of work, I was injured by getting caught in the drilling line and

landed in the hospital for 5½ months. In 1950, I worked in the oilfields firing boilers. I worked for four or five winters to supplement farming, as our crops continued to be hailed and dried out. In this way, I was able to purchase machinery and stock. My other work experiences included; the Prairie Farm Assistance Board, the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Co., and Weed Inspector for the west section of the County of Leduc. During all those winter months I spent away from home, Mary tended the stock, kept the home fires burning, and looked after our young family. During our marriage, we have had two boys, Douglas and Robert (Bob) and one daughter, Susan.

Douglas Patrick was born in Montreal on July 5, 1941. He attended Thorsby School for all his education from 1947-1959. Four years later he attained his Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Alberta. He began teaching school in 1962 and has taught in Calmar, Warburg, and Leduc. On May 22, 1965, Douglas married Sylvia Pyrch of Edmonton. They have one daughter, Melody, born on June 1, 1968 and one son, Anthony, born on Feb. 22, 1970. They reside in Edmonton at present.

Robert (Bob) Patrick was born in Edmonton on April 11, 1945. From 1951-1963 he attended Thorsby schools. He went to the University of Alberta for two years, majoring in Chemistry. In 1965, he began employment at the Celanese Plant in Edmonton in the Fibers Division, and later in their Research Department. In 1970, the Research Dept. closed down and the men were laid off. That fall, Bob started working as a Laboratory Technologist for Wilson Mud Service where he is presently employed. Bob married Louise Borg of Fort Assiniboine, Alberta on October 18, 1975. They have one daughter, Amanda, born on Jan. 24, 1978. They are residing in Edmonton.

Susan was born in Edmonton on June 23, 1956. She received all of her formal education in Thorsby from the years 1962 to 1974. In September of 1974, she entered the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Nursing. She graduated in 1977 with a Registered Nurse and Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. The following month she began employment at the Misericordia Hospital. On Aug. 19, 1978 Susan married Sidney Nowicki of Mundare. Sidney works as a Steam Engineer for Calgary Power at the Sundance Plant at Lake Wabamun. Their present home is in Edmonton.

THE STEVE POHOLKA FAMILY

By Steve Poholka

The Steve Poholkas' life story began on the homestead of his father in the early 1950's. Steve was born into the Michael and Anastasia Poholka family on Jan. 1, 1926 being second youngest of seven.



Family of Steve Poholka
L. to R. Darryl, Darlene, father Steve, mother Olga and Donnie.
Feedmill for Poholka pig farm operation in background.

Steve attended Weed Creek School and was then required to assist on his father's farm. Being the only single son on the farm, he began courting Olga Chrunik. She attended Dalgren School which later on was moved to Thorsby for a Legion Hall.

On August 8, 1951 Steve and Olga were married and moved to Edmonton for about one year where Steve was employed as a carpenter's helper for 50¢ an hour for a period fo 3 months. He spent the remaining time driving from the city to the farm. His parents then retired to Thorsby.

The newlywed couple returned to the farm to make their home and living.

This union resulted in 1 daughter and 2 sons. Darlene is now employed by a bank in Edmonton. Darrell is employed by R. Angus as a heavy duty mechanic and Donald is in Grade 12 in Harry Ainlay School in Edmonton.

Steve and Olga are busy on their farm.

THE GUSTAV RATKE FAMILY

by Gerald and Glenda Ratke

Gustav Wilhelm was born in 1915 in Strathcona to Henry and Therese Ratke. They came from farms located near the Vistula River about 30 kilometers downstream from Warsaw. Before World War I, they met and were married in Edmonton. The family moved from South Edmonton and settled in the Cohne Dale district, northwest of Leduc around the 1920's.

Gus set out on his own in 1943 with 4 workhorses and some machinery given to him by his father. He began farming in the Fruitland district on NE 11-50-28 W4.

Gus built a one-room shack and some other buildings and also drilled a well on what was then an open field. Later that summer he married Elsie Sommer, daughter of Albert and Ida Sommer, who lived in the Cohne Dale district. Elsie was the granddaughter of Gottlieb Schattschneider who had settled in the Leduc area and then later in the Strawberry district.

It was not easy on this quarter section of land. Gus and Elsie did not have much money and, because of the War, machinery was scarce. As a result, most of the work was done by hard physical labor. The field work was shared equally between both partners with Elsie running the binder and Gus stooking. Elsie still remembers one of the 4 horses who went by the name of Dick. He was the inside horse and being lazy, he would stop at each corner before the binder was out of the grain. It usually took a lot of frustrated yelling and whipping to get the lazy thing going again.

Several hundred spruce trees were planted and hoed by hand. What were small seedlings in the mid 1940's are now tall, mature trees. They were a gift to the next generation as Kenneth Dobko, who now owns this land, is enjoying the shelter they provide.



Elsie Ratke Relatives.
Mr. and Mrs. Odermot, Idaho, U.S.A. Henry Ratke, Grandfather.
Seated: Therese Ratke, Grandmother. Marwyn and Gerald Ratke 1948

Another quarter SW 11-50-28 W4 was added to the farming. The hard work brought results, with the horse giving way to a John Deere "D" and a Farmall "H", the 1929 Chevrolet truck being replaced by a 1947 Studebaker pickup. The harvesting was made easier with a swather and Case pull-type combine that was purchased in the 1950's.



Marwyn, Gus Ratke (father), Aunt Augusta Radke, Lansing Mich. Elsie (mother), Gerald and Glenda - 1956.

Even though machinery replaced the horses, the machinery was still not as easy to operate as in the 1970's. Cabs, power steering, power brakes, and electric starters were unknown. The John Deere "D" could be started only by its owner, Gus. A lot of hours were spent on the tractor, choking in the dust, freezing in the wind, or swatting insects.

Roads were not the best and many adventures resulted from travelling on them. Elsie recalls the times that she had to deliver cream to Calmar with the old 1929 Chev. truck. The hills through Weed Creek on the way to Calmar were very steep and because of poor brakes on the truck and the weak motor, many prayers were said. The old Chev. truck came through one early morning when it sped to Edmonton in time for the delivery of the first son, Marwyn, who was born in October of 1945.

Marwyn was an independent type who spent a lot of hours with his dog in the muskeg and pasture finding boyhood treasures. As a result, Elsie also spent many hours searching for the pair. Marwyn was joined by another son, Gerald, born in the spring of 1948. The two can still recall Mrs. Domzy, a neighbor who would look after them from time to time when Elsie needed a hand. They enjoyed spending time with her, and she would show them "neat" things like how to pick mushrooms and then dry them above the wood stove.

Besides work there was church attendance on Sundays and visits to relatives in the afternoons. A trip to Edmonton was considered a major event and occurred only three or four times a year. Before the day of television and paved roads, people entertained themselves by visiting, playing cards, and by church related events.

In the early 1950's Gus and Elsie bought more land from Fred Gunsch, the west ½ of 39-49-1 W5 along the road to Telfordville. They moved onto the new farm in March, 1953. Later in the spring a daughter, Glenda, was born.

A year later power came and an International freezer replaced the ice cellar. A few years later a spruce tree shelter was planted. The family was growing up and life became easier for them as more machinery, including a rotary tiller, and a new

Studebaker car came on the scene. The family was able to take a trip to Michigan.

Marwyn, Gerald, Glenda were taken to school in Thorsby by Ed Alton who drove the school bus in the Telfordville and Genesee areas for many years. Almost anyone who is now between 20 and 40 and who grew up in this area has ridden in the school bus driven by El Alton.

In 1964 Gus bought and took apart the old Lutheran Church in Thorsby. Summer holidays were spent pulling nails and sorting out the scrap lumber. Gustav's dream of owning a modern, large home was becoming a reality. The basement was poured in the late fall of 1965. However, the house was barely begun when Gus was killed in a tragic traffic accident in January of 1966. The next few years were not easy for Elsie and her children. A contractor had to be hired to finish the new house. The farm had to stay in operation while the estate was being settled. The old house was sold, moved west to the Breton district in 1967, and became someone else's home. Elsie continued to farm having married Arnold Scheetz. They still reside the home quarter.

Marwyn graduated from high school in 1964 and then graduated from N.A.I.T. in Electronics in 1966. He married Eileen Shewchuk in 1967 and they have one son Darcy. They live on an acreage near Namao and Marwyn works for the Alberta Government Telephones in Edmonton. He is a handyman and spends free time building, fixing and occasionally

giving a hand to the local farmers.



Marwyn, Gerald and Glenda Ratke.

Gerald completed high school in 1966 and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1971 with a B. Sc. in Agricultural Engineering. He now lives in Calgary and works as a petroleum engineer in the oil industry. He enjoys travelling, having spent 6 months in Europe, and has worked in most parts of Canada. He is an ardent outdoors man and spends his weekends skiing, mountain climbing, and canoeing.

Glenda graduated from high school in 1971 and attended the University of Alberta. She now lives in Ottawa and works for a shop located near the Parliament Buildings that sells Canadian Art. Glenda enjoys cycling and often travels to work that way. In the wintertime, after work, she occasionally skates home to her apartment on the Rideau Canal.

The times have changed tremendously, and the 3 children are pursuing their own lives. The horses have

gone to greener pastures. The Chevrolet no longer has any hills to climb and has since been joined in retirement by its successor. The trees have grown and the freezer still takes care of the tasty surprises. Elsie offers to visitors, and the spirit of the old John Deere "D" is probably in some hard-to-start John Deere supermodel.

WILLIAM AND JEAN RUFF

by Treasa Ruff

William, son of August and Rosa Ruff, was the one son who continued to live at home after the other brothers and sister had left and were married and on their own. He was a very dutiful son and peace-loving person. He helped his parents buy their first tractor and other equipment that would make the work easier. This meant working many long hours raising pigs and milking cows. He spent much of his time caring for his parents.

When Thorsby was building up, William, along with his horses, helped to dig the basement and pour

the footings for one of the local elevators.

In the late thirties, during the winter months, house parties were very popular in the district. People would go by sled to the different neighbors' homes to dance. William played his violin while Mr. Hale played his guitar.

When his dad passed away at home in 1950, William took over the farming operation completely. He loved animals and the outdoors.

In 1951, at the age of 36, William married Jean, daughter of Hugh and Anne Forbes. Jean had had several jobs in Edmonton and also one in Toronto where she worked in a tea factory. Jean came back to country living. Two sons were born, Milton and Marvin.

At this time they bought more holstein cows and in 1957, the Ruffs took over the home milk delivery business from the Adolph Beslers. Jean did the



The Ruff boys challenge the Warburg Buffalos to a game of ball, 1959 or 1960. L. to R. Willie, Dave, Stanley, Leeson, Sam, Norman, Bertha's son), Harvey (Jack's son) & one player unidentified.



Wedding of Marvin & Geraldine Ruff in Nov. 1977. L. to R. Karen Pickerel, Ron Krueger, Barbara Kobeluck, Gordon Kobeluck, groom and bride. Henry Neuman, MaryAnne Fritz, Allan Krueger and Brenda Lee Gardiner.

deliveries in Thorsby while William did the work at home. On an average day, she would deliver 80 quarts of milk. The worst day they can remember was one December morning when the temperature and the windchill combined was equivalent to -90 degrees F. The milk was freezing while being carried from the truck to the house. This business continued until 1967.

On July 22, 1971, William, at the age of 56, passed away quite suddenly.

Presently Jean lives on the homeplace and works part-time for Wardair. Milton has a gravel trucking business and does the grain farming. Marvin is in Legal where he manages an elevator.

THE FARMING OPERATION OF ARNOLD AND ELSIE SCHEETZ

Written by Elsie Scheetz

We live along the busy and well travelled oiled road that leads off Highway 39 into Telfordville. Our land consists of the west ½ of 34-39-1 W5 and SW 29-49-1 W5 and the farming operation is the growing of barley, clover and rape. With the quota system, prices and weather, straight grain farming has its good and bad points, and bad years.

In 1969 our crops were snowed under and combining was done in the spring of 1970. The following year or two grain dropped to a very low price.

Arnold decided to work for the County of Leduc in 1970 and I was kept busy looking after the farmyard. The garden tractor is a great help with cutting the grass, which we do once a week if possible.

The spruce trees and pines we set out are now taller and giving us good shelter. They were certainly worth the effort and work we put into them.

In the last few years grain farming has improved as prices are higher and the weather has co-operated. However, the fall of 1978 brought many problems. Heavy rains made fields very wet and soggy with combines unable to get into some fields. Grain sprouting in the swathes caused a big loss, not to mention 50 acres of barley that remained unharvested.

Our neighbors were also left with fields unharvested and the fall of 1978 will remain in our memories for a very long time.

Farming is a gamble but it provides one with a healthful and challenging type of life. We are happy with our work of cultivating the soil and growing food for consumers.



Home of Arnold and Elsie Scheetz. W1/2-34-49-1 W5.



Elsie Scheetz with barley swathe in fall of 1978. It was such a wet fall the swathes sprouted.

During the wintertime and summer weekends when we are not busy, there is an opportunity to go visiting, travel to different places and enjoy ourselves with fishing and other recreation we are interested in.

I am involved with church work and have been president of the Lutheran Church Women of Thorsby for the past two years. We can always find something to keep busy with.

ARTHUR EMIL SCHMIDEK FAMILY

as told by Art Schmidek

I was born July 14th, 1918 at Dunmore, Alberta, where my parents Albert and Olga Schmidek (nee Knull) farmed. Soon after I was born, they decided to take over my grandparents' farm 5 miles west of Leduc.

Shortly after they arrived, my father died. My mother then married Ertman Jahn and they continued to make their home here. I had 2 stepsisters and 2 stepbrothers; Hertha, Robert, Gladys, and Henry, the



Art & Lil Schmidek's first home on their farm. Donna, Darlene and Dianne in front.

youngest who still lives on this farm.

In fall of 1928 my stepfather bought the SE 3-49-1-W5 in the Weed Creek district, from Ed Bauman who had bought it from the C.P.R. There were 10 acres cleared, the rest was heavily treed. The following year 40 acres were contracted and grubbed by hand and also broken the same year. This process continued by bits and pieces until the quarter was finally cleared. One of the most interesting things in my life as a youngster was when George Pekarchik and a friend took a contract for 30 acres of clearing. As they had to board themselves, they built a dugout, which was very warm and comfortable. I used to go and visit with them because this was sort of a novelty for me. This was in the fall of the year so they cut the light brush during the winter and took the larger trees in spring.

Our only access to the farm was the south town line. The road to Thorsby was only a bush trail and impassable most of the time. Thorsby village was not yet in existence at that time — only 2 stores near the Weed Creek School, 1 mile east.

The farming was done by moving back and forth between Leduc and Thorsby with horses and machinery. When my uncle Herman Kivitt and his family came from Germany, they made their home on the farm, while he worked for my stepfather for several years. They then bought their own farm north of Telfordville and made their home there.

In 1935, I made the attempt to farm the land for that year. But in the spring of 1936 my parents decided to take a trip to Europe for 2 months, so I had to go back home again. The farm was then rented to Leo Wedman who farmed it for the next 2 years. Then it was back to moving back and forth again. By this time we were able to get another set of machinery, so only the horses had to be taken from one place to the other — a stretch of 20 miles. This continued until 1943.

In Dec. 1940, I was called to serve in the army. I took my training at Camrose, Red Deer, and Val Cartier, Quebec. In the fall of 1942 my stepfather could not get help for the harvest, so I applied for harvest leave which was granted. After the harvest I had to report back to the army in Calgary and was stationed at the Mewatta Barracks for the winter months. In the spring of 1943 my stepfather took sick and again I was granted leave to help with the spring work on the farm

During this time an exciting change took place in my life, when I married Lillian Oswald, second daughter of John and Otillie Oswald of Spruce Dale (west of Nisku). Since I was on leave from the army and not knowing what our destinations would be, we lived with my parents until August, at which time I was granted an indefinite postponement on my leave which lasted until my discharge. We immediately moved out to the Thorsby farm, where we made our home in a 2 room shack with an added porch. We purchased the farm from my stepfather that fall. Our trip out to the farm from Leduc took 6 hours by team. Lil thought we were going to the end of the world because it took so long. All our belongings were our wedding gifts which we packed into 1 wash tub.

After we got settled, Lil's parents gave us 2 cows, 2 pigs and 75 chickens. I also got 2 cows from my parents. Our income then was \$6.00 per week for milk which was 85¢ per 100 lb. From this we were able to buy our weekly groceries, get the Star Weekly and take in an occasional show. Now our work was cut out for us — building a fence for the hogs. The horses and cows had to be pastured and fed in the yard for a time as it was hard to get wire during the war. Finally we were able to get enough wire and an electric fencer to put one strand of wire around 15 acres of pasture. By this time haying and the harvest were at hand and kept us busy. Lil had her first try with 4 horses and the binder, while I stooked.

After harvest, when the first snow fell, I had to get our supply of fire wood for the year. Since our land was all cleared by now, we had to get the wood elsewhere. So John Klimosko and I went out to the Morrowdale District to get our wood. Then there was the time when our neighbor, Sam Okert, discovered coal on a creek bank south of Warburg. Sam got a permit from the government for mining. One morning 3 of our neighbors, Sam Okert, John Klimosko, Adolf Besler, and I went for coal. With a few unforseen and unfortunate difficulties we arrived home 2 days later with a poor grade of coal, to some very worried wives.

As the years progressed we were able to add the necessary buildings; a garage, machine shed and cattle shelter. In 1951, we started to build a new house which we completed in 1954. This was the year that Calgary Power came into our area and was also installed on our farm.

We also had our own threshing machine on half share with our neighbor John Hirsekorn who later sold his share to Adolf Besler, as the Hirsekorns sold their farm. We did some custom threshing as well as our own; but when help was hard to get, Adolf and I got a combine, swather and haying equipment which we shared until Lil and I left the farm.

In 1963 we bought the Ed Kison place which was east — across the road from us. We still own this farm except for the building site which was subdivided and sold in 1977 to Brian Johnston.

We were members of the St. Matthew's Lutheran Church at Thorsby, at which Lil taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. I served on the church council and was also involved in the building of the parsonage and later the church.

Our community functions were as follows. I served on the public school board for 9½ years, the Rural Telephone Company in its extension progress and the Rural Fire Fighting Association. I was a shareholder of the Thorsby Curling Rink and enjoyed many good years of curling as recreation. It was a full and interesting life that we were able to share within the community for a period of 30 years from August 1943 to May 1973.

I was rather unfortunate by getting laid up with a broken ankle on 3 different occasions and my wrist at another time. Then the final one in the fall of 1972, when I was erecting a steel granary and fell and severed my right shoulder muscle. This was the reason for our selling the farm. These unfortunate instances usually happened just before harvest. The neighbors were always helpful on these occasions and helped us with the harvesting, especially on the last mishap when our good neighbors pulled in with their combines, trucks and augers. The crop was harvested in record time. These acts of kindness shown to us in time of need from friends and neighbors have not been forgotten. Lil and I are still grateful for that neighborliness to this very day.



Schmidek family in 1978.

Back Row: L. to R. Curtis and Darlene. 2nd Row: Wayne Dianne,
Donna, Joe & Leo. Front Row: Art, Karen, Lil, Shelley, Chris, Shauna
and Maria in Edmonton home.

We then sold our farm to the Joe Lang family and moved to our new home in Sherwood Park. The following week after we moved, I got a job with Plains Western Gas, as a field man, for the installation of natural gas in the rural areas at Athabasca, Barrhead, Westlock, Wetaskiwin and Fort Assiniboine. I enjoyed and worked at this job for 2 years but I had to be away from home most of the time, so I quit. I then got a job with Acklands, in the warehouse, where I am still employed.

We have a family of three girls. Diane, born July, 1945, married Leo Bablitz in July of 1971. They own their own hardware store in Edmonton where they live

with their 2 daughters Maria and Shelley. Darleen, born Sept. 1946, married Wayne Schmidt in Oct. 1967. Wayne is in the plumbing trade. They have 2 sons Christopher and Curtis and reside in Sherwood Park. Donna, born May 1948, married Joe Koperski, Sept. 1969. Joe is employed with Westeel Rosco. They have 2 daughters, Shauna and Karen and reside in Steele Heights, Edmonton.

THE LAFAYETTE SCHOONOVER FAMILY

by their daughter Mrs. Robert McCafferty

Lafayette (Lafe) Schoonover was born at Bainbridge, Indiana June 4, 1874, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schoonover.

Effie Lourena Hale was born at Twanda, Kansas Dec. 23, 1879, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hale. Lafe's parents lived in Missouri and Kansas. At a very early age, they both then moved with their parents, to Oklahoma, in covered wagons.

Their fathers, as young men, fought the Civil War, one for the North and one for the South. At that time, your location determined on which side you would fight, not what you believed.

Effie and Lafe were united in marriage on April 3, 1900 at Mrs. Murray's, her grandmother's home, in Kingfisher, Oklahoma Territory, at that time. They lived on Lafe's farm which he bought from his brother, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Ames. Lafe's brother Charley had staked out this place at the opening of the Cherokee Strip. Those that ran and staked down their stake first received the land.

Three children were born to this union in Okla.: Jesse, Lourena, and LeRoy. In 1913, the family rented their farm to Mr. Schoonover's sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Reynolds, and moved to Imperial, Sask., farming there for 3 years. Another son, Kenneth Clee was born. In 1916, the family moved to Fort Benton, Mont. to be near Mr. Schoonover's mother and father. The children attended schools there and the family lived on a farm in the Goosebill area in the summer.

In 1923, after two children had graduated from high school, the family moved to Leduc, Alberta, renting a farm owned by Mr. John Diercks, 27 miles from Leduc. Mr. Schoonover bought C.P.R. land on which at the present time a large portion of Thorsby is built. Of course, at that time, there was no railroad or town. The daughter, Lourena, taught school a short time at Lindale, Alta.

After renting the Diercks farm for 7 years, Mr. Schoonover improved his own land enough that the family could move there. Then the town of Thorsby was started. Mr. Schoonover built the first drugstore in town, and later built a beautiful home. They lived in that community for 27 years. On retiring in 1950, Mr.

and Mrs. Lafe Schoonover sold their farm to Mr. and Mrs. Steve Dornan. They went to Belt, Mont. where their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCafferty lived, and there they celebrated their 50th anniversary. They later moved to Ames, Okla. to take over the operation of the farm they had left in 1913 and on which they had started as a bride and groom. They continued to make their home there. Mr. Schoonover passed away on Aug. 4, 1956 at the age of 82. Mrs. Schoonover continued to live on the farm and rented it to neighbors. Her son, LeRoy lived with her. She enjoyed good health, and made vacation trips to Canada to visit her brother and his family, Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Hale, and many friends. She travelled to Belt, Mont. to visit a daughter and family, a son Kenneth and family in San Diego, Calif. and also Jess and family who lived at Enid, Okla. She loved people and it was a joy to be with her. Her son Kenneth passed away in San Diego in April, 1976.

In Feb. of 1976 she had an apartment in Enid, Okla. and enjoyed her church and having friends call on her. The 21 years after her husband died were spent with her family, making loving memories which

will be treasured always.

Effie Schoonover passed away in Enid, Okla. on Nov. 2, 1977, lacking 5 weeks of being 98 years of age. There are 8 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. and Mrs. Lafe Schoonover leave to their family a love and legacy of which we can be very proud.

JOHN AND JENNIE SENIO

By Daughter-in-law Marjorie Senio

John Senio was only 4 years old when he arrived in Canada from Austria, with his parents Michael and Mary Senio and his older sisters Ann, Mary, and Fanny.

John had a three-mile walk to attend Telfordville school and went only when his parents didn't need him to work at home. He managed to go for only 2 years

before his work at home became full-time.

Through relatives, John heard of Jennie Verhun of Vegreville, who came to Canada from Poland as a young lady on December 15, 1925. A friend drove John, by car, to meet Jennie. They met on November 19, 1926 and were married 2 days later on November 21, in Mundare, which was on the way home from Vegreville. They lived with John's parents until 1929.

During this time their only daughter Millie was born on October 14, 1927. As a baby Millie got polio

and was left partially disabled.

They then moved to a house John built on his own farm, NE 8-49-1-W5. The farm was purchased from the Hudson's Bay Co. for \$12.00 an acre with about 30 acres cleared. They bought another 80 acres at \$7.00 an acre. Their home was one of the first houses

built from lumber. Most houses were then built of logs.

Jennie worked alongside her husband, clearing land along with making meals and raising a family with no conveniences. The only washing machine was a washboard and a lot of elbow grease. She would boil the white clothes — this was the way they bleached their clothes and kept them white. Clothing and bedding were made from flour and sugar sacks.

John and his dad and brothers bought their first tractor and threshing machine in 1927. He worked together with them until 1942, when John's horses broke into a wheat granary and 6 of them died as a result. This made him angry so he traded 4 other horses for his own tractor. It was an Oliver 70 and was

bought at C.M. Hale's shop.

During the Depression there were many men looking for jobs. They came from the east and from the west along the railroad track. They were all hungry and were not turned away. There wasn't much to feed them, but with what there was they were fed. One time Mom remembers she couldn't feed a couple of men because she had no bread. In this way they met a man who begged for work. He was a miner, but was willing to do anything. He was hired at \$10.00 a month for which he split firewood and did other farm and field work. He stayed for 4 or 5 months when he had to go as they couldn't afford to pay him. He became such a friend that the family hated to see him go.

At this time the only way they kept food cold, so it wouldn't spoil so fast, was to let it down in a pail on a

rope into the well.

Farm produce prices were as follows:

\$4.00 a hundred for pigs 17¢ a bushel for wheat

4¢ a dozen for eggs

A cow was traded for \$10.00 worth of lumber to



John Senio Family. John, holding Eugene, Mike, Millie and mother Jennie.



John & Jennie Senio, with sons Eugene (left) & Mike.

build a shed. They raised their own chickens and traded eggs and butter for groceries.

On June 3, 1933 Mike was born at home. He attended Dniester School for 3 years, then finished at Thorsby. Before walking to school, Mike helped with chores. He was 9 years old when he was helping to work the land with horses.

On February 17, 1939 Eugene was born, the Senios' only baby delivered in a hospital.

Their first car was bought in 1940 — a new Nash. Their first washing machine was also bought the same year. It was run by a gas engine.

A highway just south of the yard was built in 1959 or 1960. It placed their yard between 2 roads. They built a new home and moved into it in 1969.

Millie passed away on June 24, 1972.

John and Jennie celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 20, 1976 with a banquet in the Community Centre.

John and Jennie are quite active in the St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church. Through the years Jennie worked hard for the U.C.W.L., the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League.

John and Jennie are still farming and live in their modern new home.

HISTORY OF THE MIKE SENIO SR. FAMILY

As told to Marjorie Senio

Mike Senio Sr. was born in 1864 in Austria (as it was then) and lost his mother at the age of 3 years. His dad remarried and Mike and his older sister were raised by a stepmother. In 1890 he married Mary Sitko and they lived at his parents' home. Later he bought a little parcel of land and made a home of their own. The family increased and by 1901 there were 4 children; Anne, Mary, Fannie and John.

They knew some people that had gone to Canada a few years before and these people kept writing about the new country, and how much land one could buy for \$10.00. This land was called a homestead. Mike began to think about this new country and of how much better it would be for their children.

In 1905 he became brave enough to leave the

mother country and start out for Canada. Together with the 4 small children ranging in ages from 3 to 12 years and his step sisters and brothers, they started out and were classed as 2 families. They arrived in Halifax just in time to spend their first Easter in Canada. They stayed there a few days and then boarded a train for Leduc, Alberta. They were met at the station, in Leduc, by Bill Hanas and he took them to his place. A few days later he took them to the Klimoskos near Calmar. Klimosko had an old house and another family was already living in it. They were the Senetchkos. The Senios moved in with them and stayed almost 2 years.

All the homesteads around Calmar were taken but Mike Senio got acquainted with Fred Adamic who lived farther west. Adamic helped him find a homestead that was 2 miles west of where the village of Thorsby would later be built. There were already a few settlers nearby. They were the Radowits; Kobelucks; and Horutkos, and all were within a 2 to 4 mile range of his new homestead. While still living at Calmar Mr. and Mrs. Senio used to walk to their homestead and clear land. They cleared enough at first for a garden and then built a little log hut covered with a sod roof so they would have a place to sleep if they were too tired to walk back home. Then they built their first house and little did they know that it would be the first of 4 houses to be built on that homestead. It was made of logs and the cracks were filled with clay and mud. The roof was made of poles that were then covered with clay and mud. The inside was whitewashed. They moved onto their farm in the spring of 1907 and by then had bought 2 cows and were given a few chickens. Mike also bought 2 colts. He never had oxen.

After settling his family in the strange wilderness he got a job on the railroad near Edmonton. Mrs. Senio endured a lot of hardships alone with their children and with the help of the 2 older daughters cleared land while Mike was away. Fannie cooked the meals and looked after the younger children. By 1909 there were 2 more sons, Bill and Steve.

The neighbors used to take turns going to Leduc to buy the most necessary groceries as it was a 2 or 3 day trip with horses. There were no roads, just paths and trails, and if it was wet they would get stuck with even empty wagons. There was a time when Mrs. Senio and her oldest daughter Anne divided a sack of flour and carried it on their backs for 2 miles through bush and mud. Flour then came in 100 lb. sacks and when it was used up, the bags were dyed and made into children's clothes.

There were lots of wild ducks, grouse and rabbits and these made a large part of their diet. One time a lynx got into the chicken house and hearing the frightened chickens squawking, the 2 older girls went out to investigate. When they saw the animal that looked like a big cat the older girl grabbed a garden hoe and went inside while her sister Mary held the door. She killed it to the surprise of everyone. About



Mike Senio Sr. splitting wood in his 75th year.

1908 Mrs. Senio walked all the way to Edmonton after she heard that her husband had cut his foot badly and was in a hospital there. She started out at dawn and by nightfall was there. After visiting him the nurses told her to leave. She had no place to go and began to cry so they took pity on her and let her stay overnight in the hospital.

In the morning they gave her another meal and allowed her to visit her husband again before starting to walk home again. She arrived home safely that night.

When the first Ukrainian Catholic Church was built in the district Mike Senio helped with the work.

Anne married Fred Yanish of Calmar in 1910. In 1914 Mike built another house. This one was made of hewn logs and they fitted together better so there were less cracks. The cracks were filled with mud and grass. The roof had cedar shingles on it and a little cellar was dug out under the house to store vegetables in. Later a leanto was added on one side for a kitchen and wooden siding was put on the outside. The inside walls were plastered and white washed. The house had no foundation and was never painted but it was



Family of Mr. & Mrs. Mike Senio Sr. Back: L. to R. John, Bill, Steve. Front: Anne Yanish, Mary Kuzio and Fanny Sekora.

durable and still stands today.

As time passed the girls got married; Mary married Mike Kuzio and Fannie married John Sekora. Their sons grew up and the family was able to buy 2 more quarters of land. Together with the boys help, they cleared the land and put it into cultivation.

In spite of all the hardships Mr. and Mrs. Senio endured, they both enjoyed reasonably good health and in 1940 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mike was able to see all but 3 of his grandchildren before his death in 1946, in the month of December. Mrs. Senio lived to see all but one of her grandchildren. She died in Sept. 1952 at the age of 86. They are survived by 3 sons and 3 daughters, 25 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and were predeceased by 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

They made their home right up until their death on their original homestead and lived with their youngest son Steve and his wife Sadie.

MR. & MRS. MIKE SENIO Jr.

By Marjorie Naprawa Senio

On a very cold but sunny November 16, 1955, wedding bells rang for Mike Senio Jr. and myself (Marjorie Naprawa). We were married in the old St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Thorsby.

We lived with Mike's folks and on Sept. 7, 1956 our daughter Gloria was born. We moved to our own farm in the spring of 1957. It is located 2½ miles northeast of Thorsby, the S½-25-49-1 W5. This was the farm Slim Province formerly owned. We moved the house from its former location about ¾ mile east of the road. Other buildings were moved to our new home site also.

The road wasn't much better than a trail and in spring sometimes we weren't able to get out for 2 or 3 weeks. I guess you could say we had some hard times, because from the time we've lived here, there were six years, in a row, that we had bad hail damage.

We burned wood and coal for cooking and heating the house. In summer it would be pretty hot cooking a meal over the hot stove when it was 80 degrees F outside. It would have been nice if we could have saved some of that heat for the winter. For, as hard as it was to keep the house cool in summer, it was equally hard to keep it warm in winter.

During this time we sold eggs and were lucky to get \$3.00 for 15 dozen at the egg grading station. Mike had a tractor when we were married so we never owned horses. This tractor is still in working order in 1978.

We didn't have power for a few years and had a short supply of water. Our well was very deep and we had a gas engine pumping the water. It had to pump all day and into the night to water the few cattle we had.



Mike & Marjorie Senio wedding picture 1955.



Mike Senio family 1961; Glora, Gerald, Mike & Marjorie.

We got water for the house in cream cans that we filled when the cattle were not drinking. Being short of water made it necessary to wash clothes away from home most of the time. In 1958 Mike broke his ankle while playing baseball and had to do his work with a cast on. He fixed the binder so he could operate it off the tractor by himself. He also stooked while still wearing the cast.

Our son Gerald (Gerry) was born on April 23, 1959.

Through all the bad there were a lot of good times. We managed quite well, with our house getting older and starting to leak we decided to build a new home. But first we had to have enough water to service the house. We got Louis Hostyn to drill a well, and, on our anniversary in 1971 he found water. What a wonderful anniversary gift! Before this we had two other wells drilled with little success. This new well, which is over 200 feet deep, was a God-send. We put a pressure system in and supplied the old house and the cattle. Then we made plans to build and, with the volunteer help of a lot of wonderful relatives and friends, we were able to build the new house. We moved into it on Dec. 19, 1973.

Our children finished school and are now working. Gloria works for Calgary Power in Thorsby as a secretary in the office. Gerry works in Edmonton at Wilkinson Steel.

We are active in the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Mike was secretary of the men's club for seven years and I belong to the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League. Mike and Gerry are active in the curling club and Mike is secretary for the United Grain Growers Co.

THE STEVE SENIO FAMILY

by Sadie Senio

Steve was born in 1909 on the farm where we still live. He went to Telfordville School and his teacher was Mrs. Grant. There were no roads then, only paths made by cows and horses that pastured freely.

He shot rabbits and trapped weasels for spending money. Each rabbit skin was worth 8¢ and weasel skins brought \$1. With the money he earned he bought his first pocket watch and a jacknife.

About 1930 he and his dad bought their first car. It was a second hand Essex. In 1934 Steve and I were married and made our home with his parents.

I was born in 1915 to Michael and Katherine Glubish in the Rabbit Hill district. When I was 5 my parents moved to the Michigan Centre district where I spent most of my growing up years. My first teacher was Mrs. McHugh and all of my brothers and sisters were taught by her. She is presently in the Leduc Nursing Home and I go to visit her.

Marriage changed my whole life with a lot of new experiences. Together Steve and I shared our joys and disappointments. For recreation we used to walk along the railroad tracks to Thorsby on a Saturday night. We also picked wild berries whenever we had the opportunity. We would walk about a mile down the road and sit on the bridge for hours watching the creek water flowing. Almost every Sunday we had a lot of company and Steve's mother and I made a lot of meals. Since there were no fridges nor coolers we tried to cook no more than would be consumed in one day.

We always prepared a big Christmas Eve meatless meal. As we lived with Mom and Dad, all of their children and grandchildren would join us for supper that evening. After supper we sang Christmas carols until late at night. The ones that lived close by would go home while others who came by sleigh and team would stay overnight. Sometimes as many as 12 ot 15 people stayed overnight. The older ones slept in the beds while the younger ones slept on some hay on the floor.

Steve and I worked together in the fields, especially during haying and harvesting. In earlier days Dad was always in the field with us while Mother cooked our meals and cleaned house. In 1939 one beautiful July day we were haying and when we came home for lunch I didn't go back out. Instead my husband took me to the little maternity hospital a half mile north of Thorsby. By 6 p.m. that evening we had a son, Allan. A year and a half later we started to prepare our big Christmas Eve supper. Our custom was to start the day before. I never did finish it as early on



Old Senio home built about 1914, grandsons Allan and Ernie feeding chickens.

Christmas morning our second son Ernie arrived to spend Christmas with us. At that time we celebrated Christmas in January. In order to be with the family for Christmas Dr. Hankin delivered him at home. We had our usual guests that night and I'm afraid I was more a hindrance than a help. Mother did her best and with the help of her daughter Mrs. Yanish, managed to cook supper and take care of the baby and me.

Again, some of the guests stayed overnight but this time I did not give up my bed to sleep on the floor.

Even after the children came, I helped in the field. Mother looked after them. Allan was born when World War II started and our local doctor joined the army. It was quite hard to bring up children as the nearest doctor was at Leduc. One time when we were harvesting and Allan had just passed his 5th birthday, we came home to find him very sick. That night we had a very bad rainstorm that made the roads almost impassable by car. Steve got his brother Bill to pull the car with a tractor for 7 miles to Weed Creek. From there the road was gravelled and we could make it on our own.

We got him to the hospital in Edmonton (Leduc had no hospital in those years) and that morning he was operated on for a ruptured appendix. Hospitals weren't as crowded then and we were able to get a private room so we could stay with him. For a week he hovered between life and death. Steve stayed with him the first 3 days while I went home to do chores. The remaining 2 weeks I stayed while he went home to harvest.

At that time we milked around 12 cows and he had to do chores alone after a hard day's work in the fields.

Elizabeth was born in 1946. Dad was ailing that summer and I still recall when we brought her home from the hospital Dad stretched his arms out to hold her. She never did know her grandfather for 6 weeks later he passed away.

Elizabeth, as a child, was sick for awhile until she had an operation on her kidney. In 1952 she started school and Mother passed away a month later. I think this experience was the hardest in my life. Steve went out threshing, the children had to go to school and for the first time in my life I was alone. The house seemed very empty and lonely. However, that all changed when they came home from school.

The following year I was suddenly stricken with rheumatoid arthritis and spent 3 weeks in the hospital. The next 6 months off and on were spent in bed. The children were still very young - the boys were 12 and 13 years old. They had to get up early in the morning and help their dad do chores. We then had 10 fresh cows to milk by hand. Leaving their dad to finish up, they cooked their own breakfast and made their school lunches. They were never late for school.

Steve always knew how to cook but he became even better when I was sick. He had to learn how to wash and iron clothes. Imagine how white leotards turned out when washed with blue jeans! He even learned to do our small daughter's hair in ringlets. With the two boys Steve became a good barber as well.

Many relatives and friends helped us out during those trying times. I remember an incident when Mrs. John Senio came over at 6 a.m. to make breakfast for the threshers. She also did a lot of ironing and occasionally surprised us with a batch of home baked bread.

I was fortunate, for, in a year, I completely recovered from that crippling disease.

As our children were growing up we decided to build our first new home and started in 1946. We had carpenters build the shell with the rest of the work done by Steve for the most part. It was a two-storey brick house so we had to get bricklayers to do the outside.

It was plastered inside so that was also done by experienced men. Steve gyproced the entire house and laid all of the oak floors himself, upstairs and down. The finishing was done by carpenters and finally in January of 1949 we moved into it.

As our children grew older we took part in many of their school activities. When rides were hard to find the other children could always depend on Mr. Senio to drive them to hockey games. As many as 10 boys were neatly tucked into our old Dodge car. I also served them a hot drink and something to eat. Our boys played in the band organized by Joe Babiak and it was made up of at least 25 school children. That too meant driving them to band practises. Allan played the trumpet and Ernie the French horn. Elizabeth took accordian lessons in Calmar.

We, as a family, were very active in the Ukrainian Catholic Church where both boys served at the altar for many years. Elizabeth taught the younger children catechism. In the summer holidays they attended summer courses at St. Basil's Villa. They won trophies in Ukrainian and for religion. We also spent a lot of our time at that camp. When we could go out for the day, Steve worked with many others putting up some of the first buildings, while I helped in the kitchen. Sometimes there were as many as 160 children.

Even when our children were in university they kept us young. They brought many of their friends home for weekends, and together we spent many happy hours. One New Year's Eve about 20 of their friends and ours stayed overnight. I remember the numerous "care" packages that were sent to them while they were at school.

One afternoon in Feb. 1968 we lost our home by fire. Since we lived about ½ of a mile off the highway, our yard was full of passersby within minutes. A lot of our belongings were saved from the main floor by wonderful people, most of them strangers. Most all of the upstairs and basement contents were burned with only the washing machine and deep freezer being saved. Everything had to be replaced that was most needed. However, a lot of heirlooms were lost and could not be replaced.

Our most treasured possessions such as children's report cards, family pictures and their scrap books were lost.

We stayed with our son Allan and his wife Barbara for a few weeks. We had wonderful friends and neighbors. Money was given to us by many organizations as well as a lot of people. Along with the donation, they converted our combine shed into temporary living quarters.

While at Allan's home we drove back and forth to do our chores and they always had hot coffee waiting for us no matter how early we got up to go to the farm. Luckily we had an old stove in the milk house where we went to get warm while doing the chores. When we were all done in the mornings we went to John Senio's for breakfast.

We stored some of our furniture at Allan and Barbara's and Stan Tomaszewski was kind enough to put up the rest of our things for a couple of years.

We curtained off the far end of our new home to serve as a bedroom and adjusted quickly to our new living quarters. Our children named it the "Ponderosa" as a joke. It is still called that today. During the winter we got up every 2 hours to stoke the stove so everthing wouldn't freeze. Many times in the morning we had to break the ice in the water pail.

We had lots of fun in the Ponderosa. It was during the Christmas holidays that our grandsons (who were quite young) came to stay overnight and our daughter Elizabeth came for the weekend. Imagine 5 people sleeping in one bed! As we were going to sleep it seemed very small. I awoke to find Steve reading with his feet on the oven door, and he kept the room warm that night.

The winter of 1968 and '69 was very cold with lots of snow. Steve became ill with the Hong Kong flu, although he always managed to get up and try to help me with the chores. He was sick from Christmas to April. Even later he wasn't strong.

That summer we built our present home with the help of our family. We moved into the basement that year, and though nothing was fixed up we were comfortable and warm. It took us 2 years to complete it

That same summer our daughter decided to get married. It seemed it never rained but it poured.

Nowadays Christmas is more like we used to celebrate it, only there are less people. With our children and grandchildren we number 14. They never miss having supper with us, even when I was in the hospital a couple of years ago. They all gathered at our son Ernie and daughter-in-law Darlene's home in Leduc and took me out of the hospital to have Christmas Eve supper with them. The next day I was released from the hospital and didn't miss dinner at Allan and Barbara's place. On Easter morning our family always have breakfast with us.

Now we are alone but still actively farming, only on a smaller scale. Steve does all of the field work and we do a lot of gardening together. Steve's hobby is birds. He builds houses for them to nest in and has feeders for them to feed in during the winter.

After graduating from high school in 1958 Allan worked during the summer on road construction west of Thorsby. He started university that fall, and with help from us and by working in the summers he put himself through. He met a pretty blonde secretary Barbara Grinell, who was working for the government and they decided to get married in 1961.

The following year they had their first son Tracy and moved from Edmonton to make their home in Thorsby and Allan started teaching Jr. High School. A year and a half later a second son Raymond was born. For a few years Allan taught high school including Industrial Arts. In 1973 he became principal of the Elementary School and is still in that position.

After raising her sons, Barbara became very active in community affairs and is a member of various organizations. At the present she is serving her 2nd term on village council, is employed as a full time secretary for the County of Leduc and attends classes at the U of A.

Their sons Tracy and Raymond are very enterprising. For 2 years they had paper routes. Now, together with their dad, they have formed a company (R.A.T.S.). They have a full line of garden equipment and keep busy in summer mowing lawns, rototilling and landscaping. They motorbike, hunt and go fishing and camping with their parents. In the winters they do a lot of snow blowing and the whole family likes snowmobiling.

The boys are involved with sports: football, hockey and curling with the school and with their



Family of Steve Senio in 1974.

Back: L. to R. Ernie, Alec Bilesky, Tracy, his father Allan, Raymond.

Front: Darlene Senio & daughter Laurie, Elizabeth Bilesky, Steve,
Sadie (parents) Barbara Senio.

parents. Tracy has recently joined the 4H Club and is treasurer of it.

Like their grandpa they buy about 200 lbs. of sunflower seeds to feed the flocks of evening

grosbeaks that visit their place in winter.

As a boy Ernie always was the carefree kind. When he was in grade 6 he made a big scrapbook about cars. Even as a high school student he'd rather work with cars than do his homework. He was especially good to his sister as he knew she liked reading books and made better book reports than he. He played hockey but curling and table tennis were his favorite sports. He was on the school patrol, and vice-president of the Students Union in Grade 12. After graduating from high school he worked on road construction in the summer. That fall he entered S.A.I.T. in Calgary and attended university there at the same time. He was enrolled in Industrial Arts. While going to high school he always spoke of the kind of girl he would marry. She had to be pretty, talented, a good housekeeper and cook; she also must have had her appendix removed.

Well, he got just such a girl. In July 1964 he and Darlene Bruce of Rimbey were married. They started teaching High School in New Sarepta and now teach in Leduc and make their home there. Ernie teaches Industrial Arts and Photography, and for years he taught student driving. They both contribute a lot to

community and school affairs.



Mr. and Mrs. Steve Senio with their 6 grandchildren. Back Row: L. to R. Tracy Senio, Steve and Sadie, Raymond Senio. Front Row: Cheryl and Karen Bilesky, Cindy and Laurie Senio in 1979.

They have been blessed with two additions to their family. Laurie was born in 1970 and Cindy in 1977. In 1978 Darlene picked up her job where she had left off as school librarian. Laurie takes dancing, swimming, figure skating and music. Cindy is much like her older sister.

Elizabeth being younger than her brothers always tagged after them. She could climb trees and play football as well as they. Even when she was little she loved books, animals and birds. She had many pets in her young life and shed many tears when something happened to them.

During her school years she took part in all sports, worked on the school paper and was vice-president of the Red Cross. In grade 10 she won an award for

highest marks in the class.

She graduated from Thorsby High School in 1964 and began university that fall enrolling in Zoology. In 1967 she obtained a Bach. of Science and continued her education another two years, becoming a teacher in 1969.

That fall she and Alec Bilesky were married and both taught in a separate school. She later left teaching to raise two lovely daughters, Cheryl born in 1974 and Karen in 1977.

Occasionally she teaches Biology at Night School. Both she and Alec belong to the Edmonton Natural History Club. He is vice-president of the club. They also belong to the Edmonton Bird Club trying to preserve bluebirds. They have a 40 mile bluebird trail with about 71 houses of which some are in the Thorsby area. They also band birds.

THE CHARLES WESLEY AND LAURA LOUISE SMITH STORY

told by Ralph and Fred Smith

Wes was born in Lounsborough, Ontario in 1877. He came to Edmonton as a young man working as a jockey, then on the railroad and freighting. Laura Louise (Bessette) Smith was born in Helena, Montana in 1891, coming to Canada at 11 years of age. Laura and her sister Flora (9) rode on horseback behind the cattle and wagon with the rest of the family. When they moved they settled at Cardston, Alberta. Laura cooked for her father in railroad construction camps before her marriage.

Wes and Laura married in 1913, working near Edmonton where 2 sons, Ralph and Fred, were born. In the fall of 1917, travelling by train to Leduc, and then by horse and wagon, they moved to a farm in the Wilton Park area. In those days there were livery stables in Leduc with horses and wagons, or buggies to hire out, along with drivers. It was a long trip with a stopover at Calmar. The farm they moved onto was owned by a businessman from Edmonton, James Oliver Barker. It was a mile east and a mile north of the Wilton Park School. Here, DeLaurice and Velma



Ralph, Fred, DeLaurice Smith.

were born, and the older boys first started school.

The winter of 1919-20 was very hard, as the crops were left out in stooks under the snow. Snow came in October and stayed until May. The cattle were selling for \$27.00 a head in the fall and in spring they sold for \$14.00 a head, after they had bought bundles for 25¢ each to feed them, and the bundles had to be dug out of the snow.

Mother was a good cook and baked delicious bread and sold it to the bachelors. She also made butter to sell. As the wild chickens were plentiful, we boys and Dad made a trap out of an old bedspring to trap chickens.

For fun at threshing time we would sit on the back of the steam engine where it was nice and warm and watch the flames of the fire. One day at threshing time we killed mice around the stooks and filled our pockets. At supper we decided for fun to toss them to one another across the table. When the threshing crew's wives were told about the prank, they said Mother probably had us do it so the men wouldn't eat so much.

In summer when the few cows were milking well, Mom had a standing order at the Maple Leaf Cafe in Leduc for butter. Our farm was a mixed farm, (grain, pigs and cattle), as there was quite a bit of open land along the river for pasture.

A number of farmers had grain seized because of bills that weren't paid. Dad was one of the men hired to haul the grain to the elevators in Leduc to be sold to pay the bills. The other men loaded up on Sunday. Mother talked Dad into waiting until Monday to load. This was a lucky thing as one of the men whose grain had been seized, caught a ride to Leduc with one of them who loaded on Sunday and had them fined for working on Sunday.

The first World War was still going on and the Red Cross ladies in the community were very active raising money. Dances, basket socials and other events were held regularly in the Wilton Park School. There were no baby sitters in those days, so all the children were loaded up and taken to the parties with their elders. When they became tired they were bedded down in the cloak rooms or in the corner on the desks that had been piled up to make room for dancing. The local musicians with violin, guitar, and drums provided the music. Our parents attended most of these happy affairs.

The flu of 1918-19 put an end to these joyous occasions. Many of the young men and women of the community were stricken and passed away. Our family was one of the lucky ones; although we had it, no deaths occurred. Our father carried buttermilk to many of the neighbors who were ill until he was confined to bed with the flu and pneumonia. Mother put mustard plasters on him, using a warm flatiron to warm it up. He had lots of blisters on his chest as a result, but the doctor felt this had saved his life.

Our stay on this farm was about 10 years. In 1926 we bought a farm from Mr. McKenzie S.E. 34-49-1 W5, in the Telfordville School district and continued farming. It was 2½ miles north of the present town of Thorsby. The family increased while living here; Vera, Ione, and Vernon were added to the Smith family.

The boys attended Telfordville School riding on 2 mules when they were not needed for the farm work. In the winter they were hitched to the cutter. Their first teacher was Mrs. Fred (Emily) Grant.

The long-awaited railroad reaching the district in 1929 was a highlight in our lives.

Our farm was a stopping place for people travelling to and from Leduc. Dad and Mom always put them up for the night. The empty stalls in the barn were always filled with horses, and the men slept on the floor in the house.



Laura Louise Smith and daughters: Velma, Vera and Ione.

After the roads got better, Canadian Coachways put a bus from Edmonton to Breton. The corner close to our place was a bus stop known as Smith's corner. Many people came in for us to take them home. Sometimes when the roads were bad they were taken home on horseback. The kids had a horse they could ride at once. He lived to be 30 years old. They called him Bill.

There was no herd law back then, so the cattle could roam for miles, and sometimes they weren't found until the next day.

About 1931 Dad had pneumonia again and was very sick. Dr. Hankin was called out and prescribed brandy and mustard plasters again as there were no antibiotics yet. The brandy cost 75¢ for about 4 ounces. Benny Olstad and Jack Coleman from Thorsby, and Ken Foy, a neighbor from 1 mile south, were kind enough to come and sit with Dad to give Mom a rest.

Mother milked cows and made butter which was hauled to Calmar to Hoffman's store to begin with. Later Mr. Fred VanAlstyne was a mail carrier and hauled the cream to Calmar for them. When a cheese factory was built in Thorsby, the children hauled the milk with the horse and buggy or cutter when they went to school.

Mom also raised a lot of turkeys to get extra money. When they were butchered near Christmas, we would have a wagon box load of dressed turkeys. When a dish or plate was broken it was saved and the kids broke them into fine pieces for grit for the turkeys. They were fed mainly boiled eggs that the small children chopped and mixed with rolled oats.

Nothing was wasted. Mother was a good seamstress. Most of the clothes were sewn at home, usually from something someone had given her to make over. She also did lovely embroidery work and in later years learned to knit — making slippers especially for her grandchildren, and the neighbor ladies when she lived in town. Fred learned to knit when he was young, so was able to knit mitts for the other children at home; when Vera grew up he taught her to knit.

Dad and mother still liked entertainment. As Telfordville was now the closest place, they attended the functions there, before the town of Thorsby was built. There were house parties held at the Smith house, also at the Jablonski house. Good times were really enjoyed by all. Dad enjoyed watching ball games and attended most of them. After he retired he often travelled to other towns with the Thorsby ball team. Dad always liked horses. He spent several years working as a jockey when a young man. About 1941 to 1944 he travelled with a black Belgian stallion. His route took him around Calmar, Wilton Park and Leduc.

Dad and Mother sold the farm to DeLaurice after the war, and moved to town. Mother was active in church work and the Legion Auxiliary.

Ralph, the oldest son, left home in his teens and



Christmas Day at Sam Gunsch home. Wes & Laura Smith, Bill Scobie, Fred Smith's children, Steve Gitzel children and Sam Gunsch children.

worked at Oliver, B.C. in the apple orchards, in lumber camps working as a logger, and also a cook. When the war broke out he joined the Southern Alberta Regiment, becoming a cook for the officers, and spent time overseas. In 1941 he married Dulcie Odgers of Nanaimo, B.C. They have 3 sons: Allen, Keith, and Dennis. They live at Port Alberni, B.C.

In 1942 Fred married Elizabeth (Betty) Scobie from Sunnybrook. They live on a farm at Athabasca. They have 4 boys and 10 girls.

DeLaurice joined the Air Force and spent some time overseas. In 1948, he married Hadey Klatt of Thorsby. They live on the home farm at Thorsby. They have 3 girls: Harriet, Dorothy and Donna.

In 1942, Velma married Steve Gitzel of the Fruitland district. They live on a farm there. They had 2 boys, Stanley and Larry, and a daughter Phyllis. Their oldest son Stanley, was a pilot and lost his life in 1971 on a rescue mission from Winnipeg to Yellowknife. His plane went down near Yellowknife.

In 1944, Vera married Sam Gunsch of the Fruitland district. They lived on a farm near Thorsby. She has 4 children: Roger, Janice, and Sam Gunsch, and Roxannne Gascoyne. Sam Gunsch Sr. passed away in July, 1959.

After teaching school for many years, Ione married David Gitzel of Fruitland in 1969. They live on a farm in Fruitland.

In 1964, Vernon married Sheila Reese of Nanaimo, B.C. They live at Cold Lake where Vernon is in the Air Force. They have 1 girl, Sheri Lou.

There have been many changes in the Thorsby district in the past 50 years, but the family of Wes and Laura Smith remember and recollect many fond memories of their home and birthplace.

Wes passed away in May 1960 in the Glendon hospital at the age of 83. Laura passed away at the age of 87 in June of 1978 while in the Parkland Nursing Home. They are both buried in the family plot at Telfordville beside their infant son Harvey.

RAY, RUTH STERN & SONS

By Ruth Stern

Ray and I moved from Edmonton to a farm we purchased from Frank and Signe Carlson in May 1962. It was 2 miles south and 4 ¼ miles east of Thorsby in the Glen Park district, and was known to most people as "the farm with the round machine shed by the road". The machine shed no longer exists, unfortunately.

I grew up in the Genesee district so I was fairly familiar with Thorsby and had heard of many of the other small places before going to Edmonton to work as a cashier in Woodwards Groceteria.

Ray, being a native of the Medicine Hat area, Hilda to be exact, owned and operated a trucking business with Honeyboy Bakery, delivering bread for



Ray Stern with Honeyboy bread truck he bought new in 1958.

3 different bakeries. About 14 carloads of wheat a year went into the bread he delivered, not to mention all the pastry and Mrs. William's Fruit Cakes for Christmas. He made stops at Devon, Calmar, Thorsby, Sunnybrook, Warburg, Winfield, Buck Creek, Buck Lake, and on certain days went to Genesee and Telfordville stores. He did this for almost 5 years, fighting the bad roads (sometimes they were good but mostly they were bad). I never knew when to expect him home, what with flat tires and some breakdowns, especially in the winter. I worried more those few years, wondering if Ray would get home O.K. or not, and as I didn't care about city living that much, we decided to go farming.

It was a mixed-farming operation and we increased our livestock as we went along and changed from shipping cream to selling milk. We built a farrowing barn onto the feeder barn for hogs. Ray was one of the first hog raising farmers to install farrowing crates for sows and it has proven quite successful.

We had many long busy days when we first started farming. We may have had many of the conveniences our parents did not have, but the hours worked were much longer. Some days are still like that, only now our sons are a big help.

We had 3 sons when we came to the farm and have



Ray Stern family April 1977. Brian, Lorne, Ruth, Ray and Gerald. Front Row: Neil and Bradley.

had 2 since. Gerald, Brian, Lorne, Bradley and Neil, have all attended schools here. Gerald graduated with the Thorsby High School 1976-77 class and is now furthering his education at the University of Alberta. He was and still is quite active in indoor sports and also takes music.

Brian will be graduating with the 1978-79 class in Thorsby. He enjoys playing football with the Thorsby-Warburg Bearcats which includes boys from Warburg, Calmar and Thorsby. Lorne and Bradley also played for the team and Neil is looking forward to playing next fall, after watching his brothers play, and win some nice trophies for a small town. Most of all they get to know some other boys from the neighboring towns.

In the fall of 1974 we started the construction of our new home and did a lot of it ourselves. We had plans for finishing it too, but an auto accident did not allow Ray to do so, so we had to get someone in to do it. We were able to move into it the summer of '76 and we all enjoy the extra space and have many family gatherings in it.

We are all active members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Thorsby, church council, Sunday School teaching and the boys take part in the young peoples group, the Luther League. Ray also helped with the construction of the new church that was built soon after we moved here.

THE NAZARKO SWITLYK FAMILY

Related by Martha Switlyk

Nazarko Switlyk came to Alberta from West Ukraine in 1927 and when he got off the train in Leduc he didn't know anyone. The first job he found was grubbing land for a man named Stuart near Leduc. He did all kinds of hard work, grubbing, picking roots and working on a threshing crew in harvest time. Two of the farmers he worked for were Andrew Halwa and Mike Paholka. He did the land clearing by contract. During cold winter weather he worked for farmers doing chores for 50¢ a day.

By saving hard he was able to buy a quarter of land in the Centre Lodge district, a mile from the Bill Dublanko farm. In 1929 he sent for his wife Martha and their 4-year old son Johnny to join him. When they arrived in June there was no building of any kind on their new farm. Her husband borrowed a tent from Mike Radowits which was old and full of holes. The first night a heavy rain came down and she remembers being terrified when the water poured down on them through the holes. She would gladly have gone back to Europe that night.

Nazarko was working for Nick and Tony Faraschuk that summer and Martha went to Faraschuks too, and after a few days moved to the Andrew Paholka farm. Here she worked, milking cows, feeding pigs and helped pitch bundles during the harvesting. Threshing wages were then \$1.00 a day.

In the old country Martha had done a man's work as her father had been called to war service and she had to take his place. She had worked with horses on their farm.

Nazarko bought some lumber in Leduc to build their first little house. He had to borrow a team and wagon from Mr. Faraschuk to haul it out to their farm. They dug a cellar and built the house over it. The home was very small, only 14 feet wide with a kitchen and bedroom.

The first cow they bought that fall at Andrew Paholka's auction sale died the next spring from milk fever. Tom Dublanko Sr. then bought 2 cows from Metro Babiak for them and her husband worked all summer to pay for them.

Their daughter Marie was born in 1930 and in 1931 a son Mike was born. The next year Anne joined the family and in 1935 Frances was born.

In 1937 disaster struck when their home burned down. They moved into the pump house, but as it was so small, they slept in a granary.

Martha remembers a time when Anne wandered away and was lost. They searched all night and a day for her. The child was only about 4 and, lost in the heavy bush, she walked until she came to a farm at Wizard Lake. The woman there told her husband to take Anne back across the lake in his boat. This was a terrible ordeal for Martha and she wondered if she could stand the strain while they looked for Anne.

In 1939 their oldest son died but life went on. It was hard to find water on their rocky farm and a drilled well cost them \$400.00. They had paid \$1300.00 for the farm and there were 60 acres of cleared land in 1941 when they decided to sell to Mr. Yaskiw for \$2000.00.

Nazarko then bought a farm with better soil 4 miles north of Dniester school for \$4000.00 and they moved onto it in April of 1942. It had belonged to Bill Green and had buildings but the house was in poor condition, with holes in the walls near the ground making it cold. There was very little cleared land and it was hard work to cut the big trees and grub out their roots. By 1943 they had 35 acres done and seeded them to wheat. The crop was very good and they paid off the farm debt.

The next year's crop looked promising too until a



The Nick & Martha Switlyk Family.
L. to R. Frances, Anne, Martha, Nick, Marie, Michael, with youngest son John in front. - Aug., 1949.

hail storm destroyed it. Her husband then went to work in Edmonton as a carpenter to earn some money for feed for the stock and to buy seed grain for next year's crop. Gradually conditions improved for them. In winter he cut logs on the farm and had them sawed into lumber, some of which they used for more buildings. Another son was born to them and they named him John.

In 1945 they were able to build a new house on the farm which became the home of the Norman Scheetz family who bought the farm when it was sold. The Switlyk family rented 3 more quarters of land and continued farming and prospering until 1962 when they decided to move into Thorsby. John took over the farm and his parents bought 2 lots near the Thorsby Community Centre for \$400.00 each. Using their own lumber they built a house and moved into the basement while they worked to finish the upstairs. The next year they built another house on the adjoining lot and later sold it to John Klein. In 1965 they bought a lot on 47 Street for \$500.00 and built a nice house on it. They moved into it on Oct. 10 of that year and again lived in the basement while the upper part was finished. It is the present home of Martha and life is much easier; however, it is lonely as Nazarko died in August 1976.

The church always held their interest and Nazarko was president of the congregation at one time. Later he became its secretary, after his death Martha took over his duties as secretary. He had also helped to move the old church building into Thorsby in 1943 from its former location 3 miles east.

Martha keeps busy with her home and garden, is the secretary of her church women's club and has been janitor of the church for thepast 9 years. The club does a lot of catering and she is always involved with that.

Their family has all married and made homes away from the old home. After finishing high school in Thorsby the girls went away to work.

Marie married Paul Paskowski and they have 2 children, Douglas and Suzanna, and live in Edmonton.

Anne married Bernie Clark and they have 4 children, David, Kim, Murray and Dianne. They lived in Camrose but now Anne is a widow and makes her

home in Victoria, B.C.

Frances married Ed Skeken and had 4 children, Brian, Eddie, Dallas and Janice. They live in Edmonton. Frances passed away in May of 1978.

Mike and his wife Olga live in Edmonton and have one daughter Christine.

John married Dolores Tancowny and they had 3 children, Wayne and 2 daughters, Wendy and Donna. John gave up farming and now makes his living working for a regular pay cheque.

HUMPHREY AND ANNE VERHUN HISTORY

by Anne Dool Verbun

On November 26, 1920 Anne was born to John and Katie Dool. She was the oldest girl, but ranked third on the family tree.

Anne completed Grade 6 in school, but due to illness in the family was unable to continue her education.

On September 5, 1936 Katie Dool and her daughter Anne went to Thorsby shopping. While in the store Katie noticed a young man (who she later found out was Humphrey Verhun) cash a cheque and receive a large sum of money. Jokingly Katie said to him, "With all your money you should buy us a beer." To her surprise Humphrey replied, "Yes, I'll buy you a beer." Later when Anne came into the store and asked where her mother was, the owner told her that she went for a beer with a young man. As Anne was only 15 and not permitted to enter the hotel she decided to take a quick look inside and see if Katie was there. Humphrey noticed her then and said, "There is your daughter, Katie, and I'm going to take her for a treat too!" He went over to Anne and said, "Come to the cafe and I'll buy you an ice cream cone.'

Well Anne's eyes all but popped out of her head. To get a treat such as that was indeed a thrill. She could hardly wait to get home and brag to her brothers. During the course of their brief encounter Humphrey had decided that Anne was the girl he wanted to marry, and as Katie and Anne left town going south and Humphrey started off west, he threw a package of gum in the back of Katie's buggy and it landed right in the middle of a grocery bag. He announced "I'll come and see you sometimes Anne." Well now Anne's brothers were indeed going to be jealous, first an ice cream cone and now a whole package of gum.

The very next day, Humphrey, on his way to the Dool's farm, stopped at Mr. and Mrs. George Hanas' to get some information about Anne. The Hanases assured Humphrey that Anne was a good, hard working girl. Now his mind was made up and his only concern was how he would go about asking Mr. Dool for his daughter's hand in marriage. When he entered the Dool's home and introduced himself, Mr. Dool taking an instant liking to him, immediately called

Katie to come and start making plans for the wedding. Humphrey decided that it wasn't such a difficult task after all.

Anne meanwhile was about to help her brothers outside when she noticed Humphrey come into the yard and quickly went to change her clothes. Seeing him sitting at the kitchen table she realized that she was attracted to him and it came as no surprise when Humphrey asked if she would walk him home and on their walk asked if she would marry him.

On September 7, 1936 Humphrey and Anne went to get their marriage license from Bill Armstrong and stayed in town for a dance. Anne's brother Metro was sent along to make sure Anne got home safely.

Although they had already gotten their marriage license, Katie thought it was a poor time for a wedding as it was harvest time. So she went to Humphrey and suggested that they postpone the marriage until after harvest. Humphrey said that if it was Anne's wish to wait then that's the way it would be, but first he'd ask the girl and see what she said.

On September 9, 1936 Humphrey borrowed Mr. Bill Senio's car and went to see Anne. She was doing chores when he drove up. He said, "Your mother came by yesterday and said that we shouldn't get married until after harvest. Is that right?" "No," Anne replied, "I didn't know anything about it." "Well then," Humphrey said, "will you go with me now?" Anne said, "Sure I'll go — right now." On their way, they stopped and told Mr. Dool they were leaving and that they would be back in the evening.

They returned that evening after having stopped at John Senio's to pick up John's suit for Humphrey. The next morning they left for Edmonton. The same day Anne bought her wedding clothes and at 3:00 o'clock that afternoon (Sept. 10, 1936) Humphrey and Anne were married in St. Basil's Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Mr. Bill Senio; Miss Rose Fedina; Mr. John Czolach and Mary Kuzio stood up for the couple. It wasn't until after harvest that a celebration was held for them.

The couple made their first home on a quarter section 1 mile west of Thorsby which was rented from Mr. and Mrs. William Czolach. The house was an old one, 16 feet by 12 feet which was not insulated, but heated by a wood and coal Franklin stove. They farmed 120 acres of cleared land whereby they received 1/3 share. As they had no machinery of their own, all the implements had to be borrowed and in turn Humphrey did carpenter work for compensation. Their livestock consisted of 1 cow and when they shipped the first container of milk they received 29¢.

On November 30, 1936 Humphrey and Anne became members of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Thorsby.

On August 25, 1937 their first child Joyce Helen was born at the Burgess Hospital ½ mile north of Thorsby.

In March 1938 they purchased a quarter section



Anne Verhun feeding turkeys she raised.

1½ miles north of Thorsby for \$2,200 of which only 20 acres were cleared. On the farm was a 10 by 12 foot granary which was relocated into the bush on the southwest corner of the quarter. This is the site of the present farmyard. A hole was cut in the granary for the stovepipe. There was no window.

Humphrey built a teepee-shaped shack for the chickens from trees. As their livestock increased a barn was needed. This was built in 1939 from large trees which were cut flat on two sides and interlocked. The roof was covered with straw. A 4 by 4 foot well was dug by hand 50 feet deep to acquire water. A rope was suspended from the centre of a pole which was raised by two poles on each side of the hole. Humphrey was in the bottom of the well and filled the pail, with mud and Anne would crank up the pail and empty out the mud. This process took 3 week before water was struck. It was a very happy occasion. There were no fences to confine the livestock separately and they became quite friendly towards one another.

On May 5, 1939 their second child Larry was born. As there were only 20 acres of cleared land, the couple spent most of the daylight hours clearing the land. The children were left alone in the house quite often, even at their young age. Quite often Anne would peek through the window to check on the children being very careful not to attract their attention.

In 1945 they purchased 80 acres adjacent to the quarter section. Fortunately this piece of land was cleared.

As the children grew older, the house seemed to grow smaller; therefore in 1947 Humphrey and Anne built an addition to the house. In the fall of the same year hail hit the crops and left no income for the year. In order to support the family Humphrey started a lumber mill with Harry Meleshko, 15 miles north west of Breton. He rode to Breton by bus and from there walked to the mill site. Anne was faced with looking after the children and livestock through the cold winter months with no electricity.

All in all, Humphrey's hard work was rewarded. This joint venture produced 100,000 feet of lumber. It was sold at \$60 a thousand, although some was kept from which he built the barn and garage presently on the farmyard.

On September 15, 1948 their third child Joseph

was born.

The next year the northeast quarter of land was purchased. Joyce looked after most of the household chores as well as baby Joseph whom they nicknamed "Cha-Cha". This enabled Anne to spend more time outside helping Humphrey as well as looking after 500 turkeys, 500 chickens and 100 hogs, and 10 cows to milk by hand.

On June 7, 1950 their fourth child and second daughter Jean was born. Within a few months after Jean's birth Humphrey became ill and had to be hospitalized for 2 weeks. This put quite a strain on Anne although Anne's brother Metro Dool helped

her considerably.

After the fall work was completed in 1953, Humphrey and Anne took a holiday, leaving Joyce and Larry in charge of the farm. They motored to Willowbrook, Sask. to visit Humphrey's half-brother John Sitko. They took "Cha-Cha" with them and after miles and miles of driving Joseph got very bored and restless. He said to his Dad, "You stop and I'll run after the car." Humphrey thought it would teach Joe a lesson and let him out of the car. Joe ran behind the car until he got so tired he started to cry. At that time Humphrey asked him, "Do you still want to run some more?" "No," replied Joe, "now you run and I'll drive!"

On September 8, 1955 Humphrey Danny was born and when they brought him home, Humphrey carried him to the house. Later Jean wanted to play with him as one would a doll, but Anne quickly reprimanded her. To this Jean replied, "He's not your baby, he's Daddy's baby."

By this time there were 5 children in the family and the house was definitely too small and even Humphrey agreed, although newer machinery was needed, a new house had to be built first. In the spring of 1958 the old house was sold and moved away. The family moved into the garage and two granaries. As Humphrey was an experienced carpenter, he did most of the construction himself.

Joyce, although happy with the prospect of a new house, fell in love and was looking forward to her own home. On October 25, 1958 she married Jim Nykipilo, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Nykipilo from Boyle, Alberta. They were blessed with 4 children, Anne, Debbie, James, and Christine, and make their home on a farm near Boyle.

The following year on October 3, 1959 the scholar of the family, Larry, married Nadine, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Sych of Hay Lakes, Alberta. In the years that followed they had 2 children, Darcy and Lari-Ann, and are presently living in the city of Edmonton. Now Humphrey and Anne had 2 children married, but their family was not complete. The baby of the family arrived on October 23, 1959 and was named Virginia, or Ginny as she is now called.

Through the years Humphrey and Anne were always deeply interested in the church and their home was always open to the missionaries and Sisters. Much

of their time was donated to church functions. Humphrey's qualities of leadership were evident in his service first as secretary, then trustee and when the decision was made to build the new church in 1960, he was elected president of the building committee consisting of 12 trustees.

Humphrey spent many days with the other

trustees planning the construction.

At home, Joe and Jean helped Anne with the farm work during Humphrey's constant absence. The fall of that year snow was already threatening and the crops were still on the field. Two of the committee members, Mr. Steve Ostapchuck and Mr. John Powlik came to give Humphrey a hand to get the crops off the field.

The end of 1960 brought only the completion of the foundation for the new church. As progress was slow, in the spring of 1961 Humphrey hired a carpenter, John Hantiw, to finish the domes and complete construction. Humphrey spent nearly every day at the site supervising. It never surprised Anne when he would come home for dinner or supper along with 5 or 6 other men.

With God's help, the construction at this point was going quite well, as many members sacrificed their time to help as much as they were able. The parish priest at that time was Father Lysak, and as harvest time approached again, Father decided that if Humphrey could donate so much time to the church. he was willing to help with the harvest. With Anne driving the stookloader, Humphrey on the hay rack, and Father Lysak and John Klimosko throwing stooks in the feeder part of the threshing machine, they were able to clear off a good part of the crop. Things were going too well it seemed, for late that evening the stookloader broke and the threshing operation came to a standstill. Father Lysak, who was not used to hard work of this nature, said to Humphrey, "Well, thank God it broke so now we can quit working!" Humphrey laughed, but was very grateful for his help and good spirit.

By 1961 Humphrey and Anne had enjoyed 25 years of marriage. They asked for God's blessing by attending church service at the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Thorsby the morning of their special day. High Mass was officiated by the Rev. Victor Soroka and the Rev. B.P. Lysak. Later that evening supper and dancing was enjoyed by over 300 guests at the Thorsby Community Centre. That day's events were organized by their children.

Humphrey and Anne had attended lots of weddings, parties and such with Humphrey as master of ceremonies. In his speech he would begin by saying that he would not speak very long because he bought his wife new shoes at the Army and Navy for 15¢ and she was anxious to get out there on the floor and dance!

Four years later, the family was again left to manage the farm as Humphrey suffered a relapse of illness. He was hospitalized for 1 month.



Verhun's 25th Anniversary. L. to R. Jeannie, Joyce, Dad holding Virginia, Mom, Larry, Joe & Danny.

The summer of 1965 Larry and Nadine decided Humphrey and Anne needed a holiday. They left the farm under Joe's and Jean's supervision and travelled to the U.S.A. With Larry and Nadine driving, and enjoyed a relaxing trip.

The year of 1970 proved to be a very busy one for weddings in the Verhun family. On May 9, 1970 Jean married William R. Sturko, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Sturko of Calmar. At present, Bill and Jean have 2 daughters, Bonnie and Joanee, and reside near Calmar.

On June 6, 1970 Joseph married Sue Smigelski, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Smigelski of Edmonton. Joe and Sue have 2 children, Bradley and Angie. Joe farms and operates his own trucking business. Sue is employed as secretary for Thorsby Agencies. They moved into their new house on the farm in the summer of 1978.

Danny is presently farming the home place and is employed in Drayton Valley.

Ginny is working and living in Edmonton.

During the fall of 1973 illness overtook Humphrey again and on February 22, 1974 he passed away.

The children felt that he had been an example to them with his Christian living and even though he was physically a man of small stature, in character he stood very tall.

Anne continues to make her home on the farm. In 1976 she became ill and was hospitalized for a month. She now spends time in caring for some of her grandchildren.

WESLEY G. WARNOCK

Wesley first came to Thorsby in 1949 as part of an oil survey crew working in this area for Sun Oil Company.

He and his crew happened to stay in a small house owned by Mr. Vic Sandstrom in the eastern part of



Wes and Elaine and family in 1978. L. to R. Parents, Craig, Wendy, Russell, Karen, Kelly and Darren.

Thorsby. Across the road, also living in a small house, were Elaine and Evelyn Cieslinski who were going to high school at the time. Wesley, also known by the nick name "Buster", got to know Elaine and soon they were dating.

After high school Elaine worked at the Bank of Montreal for 4 years. On August 4, 1955 they were married in the local Roman Catholic Church. Wes then quit Sun Oil Company and went into the gravel trucking business. He bought his first truck in 1954 and hauled gravel for many years. They lived in Thorsby for the most part until they bought a dairy farm, 8 miles south of Thorsby, in April 1973.

They have 6 children ranging in age from 22 to 9 years. Craig, is now in 4th year Commerce at the University of Alberta; Russell is in 1st year Heavy Duty Technology at N.A.I.T.; Wendy is in 1st year Bus. Adm. at N.A.I.T.; Karen is in Grade 11 at Thorsby High; Kelly-Ann is in Grade 8; and Darren is in Grade 3. Everyone is kept quite busy but enjoys life in the country very much.

GEORGE AND PHYLLIS YAWNEY

written by Phyllis

George and Phyllis Yawney were married June 2, 1967. He is the only son of John and Stella Yawney of Glen Park. Their farm is 5 miles south and 7 miles east of Thorsby and their 3 children went to school at Lake Centre, Humble and Calmar. George has 2 sisters. Louise is married to Mike Meinczinger. They farm at Alsike and have 2 children; Reggie and Jason. Madeline married Randy Devries in 1978 and they live on her parents' farm. He is employed in Leduc.

Phyllis is the daughter of Claude and Rose Wagar and she grew up 10 miles southeast of Thorsby.

For the first 2 years of their married life, they lived on a farm at Glen Park. They then moved to the Thorsby district and farmed for 5 years. In 1974 they moved into Thorsby where George was employed at the N.A.D.P. cheese factory as a milk tester for 4 years. Since that time he has worked for Zeidler Plywood Industries in Edmonton and has been there 7 years.

Phyllis worked at Blunts Nursing Home in Leduc for 2 years and is now employed in the Thorsby Hotel Cafe. They have 2 children; Gary and Virginia. Both attend Thorsby Elementary School.



John Yawney Family.
L. to R. Louise Mienczinger, George Yawney, John & Stella, Madelaine
Devries.



George Yawney Family.
Gary and Virginia with their parents George and Phyllis.

THORSBY SPORTS



THORSBY BALL TEAM IN 1947 AND 1948.

They won the Championship in the Elk Island Tournament. Back row L. to R. Wilf Alton, Don Ohrn, Arne Strautman, Pete Pederson, Walter Boddy, Norman Ruff. Front row, Barney Pasula, Joe Zingel, George Melnychuk, Andy Medisky, Mike Kinasewich, Nick Kinasewich, bat boy Ray Kinasewich in front centre. They played in the Pioneer Baseball League against teams from Thorsby, Warburg, Breton, St. Francis, Genesee and Winfield.



THORSBY TIGERS HOCKEY TEAM 1947 - 49.
L. to R. Back row, Ed Alton, Andy Medisky, Wilf Alton, Arne Strautman, Melvin Hughes, Don Ohrn, Father Tom Conway coach. Front row, Jack Conway, Pete Kinasewich, Bud D'Easum, Jack Mader, George Modin, Mascot George Alton, Absent were 2 players, Nick and Mike Kinasewich.



THORSBY HOCKEY CLUB — 1938-39.

Back row — Norman Clark, Walter Boddy, Ken Delameter, Alex
Panar, Robert Neid, Andy Meditsky. Front row — Fred Samardzic,
Wasyl Malarchuk, Jack Stephenson, Peter Kinasewich.



THORSBY BASEBALL TEAM IN 1933.
L. to R. Back row, Johnny Sucloy, Abs Moeller, Reinold Sommer, Benny Olstad, Clee Hale who was pitcher, and Carl Sommer, Front row, unknown, E. Petley Jones, Ole Olson, Allan Phillips and Johnny Diercks.

At the Thorsby Curling Rink.





THORSBY RED WINGS BASEBALL TEAM IN 1951 Back row, L. to R. George Melnychuk, Allan Phillips, Alex Radowits, Joe Zingel, Walter Radowits and Paul Drewoth. 2nd row, Wilf Alton, Leo Zingel, Melvin Hughes, Dave Ruff, and Jim Zingel. Front row, Walter Hughes, Ed Alton, and Allan Zingel.

Thorsby Red Wings Baseball team won the trophies 3 years in a row and \$1000.00 playing in the "Pioneer Baseball League."



1963 THORSBY LADIES BASEBALL TEAM



CALMAR HOCKEY TEAM playing at Conjuring Creek. R. to L. Bill Trofimuk, Tim Hoffman, Howard Phillips, Mike Sturko, Reuben Hetzler, Bud Mathes, Earl Westlin and Arnold Bablitz in centre.



THORSBY SOFTBALL TEAM — TROPHY YEAR 1951 Back Row, L. to R. Sophie Holowychuk, Ruth Miller (Helgren), Cecilia Marcino (Holt), Laura Jonson (Johnson), Alma Ruff. Middle row, Alvena Zingle, Jones (Alma) Phillips (Bentley). Front row, Phillis Madiuk, Mae Stasiuk, Rachel Melnychuk, Guinea (Marie) Harrish (Lyka), Jo-Ann Ursylak (Zingle).



THORSBY HIGH BASKETBALL TEAM Back row, L. to R. Stan Zurek, John Denschikoff, Gerald Powlik, Stan Gitzel, Ken Hutchinson, Orest Senio. Front, L. to R. Danny Forester, Melvin Dunlop, Wilf Hartfelder, Gordon Ostapchuk. About 1960.



1967 PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS — Oilfield All-Stars played during the Pan-American Games in Winnipeg and represented teams from-Thorsby, Glen Park, Warburg and Breton. Front row, L. to R.—Darryl Snider, Roy Buchan, Keith Broadbent, Wayne Bablitz, Kevin Carson, Darryl Hostyn, Jack Zingel, David Oslund, Bernie Biever. Back row Randy Helgren, Tim Hamilton, Rory Olson, Derald Kisser, Barry Strautman. Coach of the 'Little Canadian Team' (12 years and under) was Louis Hostyn, Manager — Wallace Helgren.



THORSBY BASKETBALL 1971
Back row, Ronnie Zingel, Jim Fink, Raymond Sommers, Daryl Snider,
Robert Green, Robert Dublanko, Mr. Griffin (coach). Front row, Terry
Pruneau, Gary Marion, Brian Paul, Richard Bateman, Jackie Zingel,
Kim Pasula.



Thorsby High School students playing volley ball in the school gymnasium.



THORSBY - WARBURG BEARCATS Football team 1976.

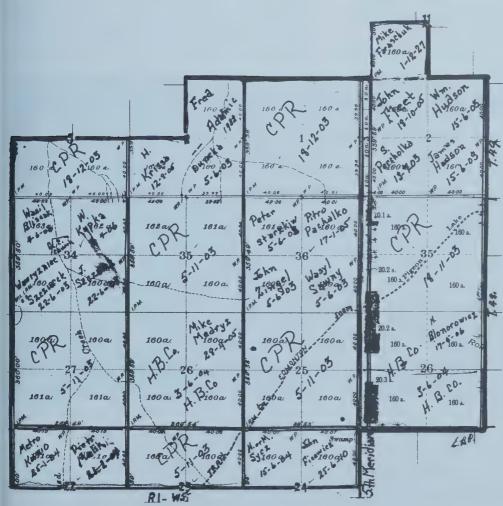
Weed Creek

School District No. 2324

December 24, 1910



Weed Creek School



The First Homesteaders & Grants to the CPR

The Information on this Map Courtesy of: Alberta Prov. Archives and Alberta Gov't Map Division

THE STORY OF WEED CREEK S.D. #2339 based on the School Records of 1910-1942 $B_{\mathcal{V}} E.B.P.$

Mr. William Hudson was a leader in the formation of this School District. A meeting was held at his home on April 4, 1910. Those present were: Mr. Hudson, Mike Paholko and Wm. Yawney. They formed a committee and directed Mr. Hudson to write to the minister of education for information to form the proposed district.

The next meeting was on Nov. 24, 1910. Mr. Yawney was elected chairman, and Mr. Hudson acting secretary. Notices were to be posted throughout the area stating when and where a poll would be taken to form the Weed Creek S.D.# 2339.

The third meeting on Dec. 16, 1910 had the following ratepayers present:

Wm. Schurek, Mike Dencka, Mike Paholko, John Schurek, Mike Harrish, Wm. Yawney, Peter Stashko, Peter Paholko, Wm. Hudson, Wm. Rupka.

All voted in favor of forming a new school. The first School Board was then elected; Wm. Yawney, Chairman; Wm. Hudson, Acting Secretary; Peter Paholko, and Mike Harrish.

At the first meeting of the board (June 5, 1911) Wm. Hudson appointed as Sec-Treasurer at \$25.00 per annum. It might be noted that in the previous year Mr. Hudson had loaned the committee \$25 to meet expenses or organization. A motion authorized the



Weed Creek School pupils and teacher Mrs. Hatch. Back row — Frances Faraschuk, Nick Zingle, Annie Blonarowicz, Katie Schurek, Metro Yawney, George Zingle. Front row — Metro Fedina, Pearl Blonarowicz, Jennie and Bessie Harrish, John Yawney, Pete Zingle, Alex Harrish and Jack Schurek. A few pupils are not identified.

Board to borrow \$500.00 for the purpose of building and furnishing a school.

At the meeting of Jan. 23, the site for the school was chosen at NW 36-48-1-W5. Peter Stashko received \$11.00 for the necessary 2 acres.

On Mar. 17, the O-Hara Co. of Winnipeg accepted the debenture at 6% interest to be paid in 10 annual equal payments.

On Jan. 9, 1912 the first annual meeting was held in the new school. Annual meetings were thereafter held in January in the school. One or two trustees were elected at these meetings and the Treasurer's Report



1934 Weed Creek Class picture. Mr. John Symyrozum was the teacher.

Top row — Frances Schurek, Annie Dedio, Arnold Nieman, Annie Dool, Edwin Helfenstein, Clara Kison, Albert Kison, Erna Nieman, Metro Dool, Annie Kilik, John Blonarowitz, Bessie Blonarowicz, Paul Hunker, Helen Blonarowicz and Walter Kison.

Kneeling — Emily Drewoth, Effie Poholka, Hilda Kivitt, Stella Helfenstein, Nellie Kuzio, Alma Kison, Stella Kilik,

Josephine Melnychuk and Mary Kuzio.
Front row — Sam Schurek, Steve Poholka, Walter Yawney, George Brandabura, Ewald Rinas, Henry Kivitt,
Peter Stashko, John Melnychuk and Mike Dedio.



Weed Creek School in 1942.

presented by Mr. Hudson. The annual meeting for Jan. 1919 was held on Feb. 13 due to the 'flu epidemic. The meeting for 1920 was adjourned to June 8 and the Inspector's Report recommended the school be kept open in 1921.

On June 21, 1921 Inspector Robertson called a meeting of the trustees to try to settle some grievances expressed by the board member. The chairman "wanted the honor of signing the cheques", but, he had forgotten that a motion said he was now to sign a number of blank cheques and leave them with the chairman. The meeting also concluded "the chairman has no authority to close the school or lecture the teacher on his duties". He is to make his complaints to the Inspector. A teacher was to be engaged at \$1200.00 per year. The quotes above are from the minute book of the district. The upstairs room was to be prepared as a teacherage and a barn built for the children's horses.

In June 1922, W.M. Whillans was engaged to teach at \$1,000.00 per year. In Sept. the Board refused a \$50.00 increase for the teacher. The upstairs room had to be improved to make it warmer for the winter. The J. Schurek children to do the Janitor work at \$4.00 per month in winter and \$3.00 per month in summer. Wider front steps were built by L. Mudry.

The meeting of Jan. 19, 1922 appears to have been the last meeting that Mr. Wm. Hudson attended as secretary.

There followed a period of several years of difficulties in the administration of the school. Problems of payment of the teacher's salary arose in 1924. She was found to have taught 192 days and to quote from the minute book, the board and ratepayers "give orders to the treasurer don't pay more, only \$115.35", that makes a total of \$822.85 for 192 teaching days.

In Sept. 1924 problems arose re the water supply. It could no longer be obtained from a privately owned spring. A new well was to be dug on the school yard.

June 20, 1925. At a special meeting: "We have resolution on this meeting to keep this teacher Miss J. Dunnington on next year and her salary to be \$915.00 to June, 1926."

During the next year it was apparent that problems

arose among the board members. Some were dismissed. In the fall of 1925 the Dept. of Education appointed Inspector Fuller as Official Trustee. He appointed M.G. Stellmaker, sec.-treas. at \$75.00 per year. The barn that was to have been built several years before was still to be built. Mr. Stellmaker was instructed by Mr. Fuller to haul 5 yards of gravel from Pigeon Lake for the foundation. The school floor was to be oiled.

In June 1927, a new board was elected: E. Helfenstein, Steve Zingle, C.H. Drewoth. Meeting decided to build a barn for 10 horses.

A meeting 2 days later had the barn again up for discussion as well as a new floor for the school. The barn was to be 24 x 28, 2 sliding doors, gable roof, window in each end. The school floor to be made of # 1 four-inch fir. The size of the floor was 24 x 36.

A special meeting of July 9, 1927 is interesting. A tender by Mr. Drewoth for \$650.00 for barn and floor was considered reasonable and accepted. The interior of the school was to be painted. The colors chosen are also interesting: brown wainscoting, light brown walls above, cream ceiling, oiled floors. The sagging entry was to be repaired and stairs to teacher's quarters to be "nailed up". New vaults were to be dug for the outhouses and exteriors painted. A purchase to be made of a half-dozen single large size seats. Library cupboard to be built.

C.H. Drewoth, trustee, resigned on July 14 so that the Board could accept his tender for barn and floor.

At the annual meeting of Jan. 18, 1928 the first mention is made of the purchase of fuel. Five cords each of dry wood and of green wood, at \$5.00 per cord to be delivered by Metro Yawney. The Board wanted a cheaper secretary. Will Stashko offered to do it for \$50.00 and was accepted. (Exit Mr. Stellmaker)

On Mar. 19, 1928 the Board decided to lower the taxes from those of 1927. On April 7, 1928 a special meeting records the following in the minutes: (quote) "Mr. H______ making the proposition to discharge the teacher Miss D______ for not having good control on children. Trustee F _____ said that we should not discharge teacher for that until vacation days. Mr. H_____ made the motion to give the teacher 30 days notice before vacation to look for

another teaching place."

In June the chairman, Mr. S. Zingle, resigned and Mr. Andrew Paholko elected as chairman to end of year.

At the annual meeting that followed shortly, Mr. Fred Zingle was elected for 3 years and chairman for 1 year. The Schurek children to receive \$5.00 monthly for janitor work - they were to scrub the floor twice during the winter and weekly in summer. Green wood was now bought for \$4.50 per cord.

On Mar. 2, 1929 the Board set the mill rate at 20 mills and a new janitor hired.

On Jan. 18, 1930, 6 cords each of dry wood and of green wood purchased at \$3.75 per cord. The janitor to receive \$4.85 per month. There were no further trustee meetings in 1930.

Annual meeting of Jan. 10, 1931 elected Mr. Helfenstein for 3 years and chairman for 1 year. Wood purchases: 18 cords (3 dry, 15 green) delivered at \$1.65 per cord!! and note this, teacher's fuel, green wood at \$1.95 per cord. This is the first mention of charging the teacher for fuel.

On May 30, 1931 the annual meeting decided to have the inside of the school painted: white upper walls and ceiling. (exit those brown walls of 1927).

In Jan. 1932 the annual meeting decided to cut the teacher's salary to \$850.00 per year, the janitor to \$4.25 per month and secretary to \$30.00 per year. The teacher was permitted to put his auto in the barn.

In Jan. 1933 the annual meeting decided that work needed on the school could not be done due to the depression.

In Dec. 1933 the first mention is made for an order for coal - 2 tons ordered. A heater bought for teacher's quarters. The teacher: \$600.00 per year for 1933.

The Jan. 1934 annual meeting approved \$150.00 expenditure on improving school grounds. Fifteen cords of wood for the school at \$1.25 per cord and 2 cords for the teacher at \$1.45 per cord. The janitor to receive \$3.50 per month. In June the improvement program was launched. A window moved from west side to east side (had been under discussion for 2 or 3 years), new toilets to be erected with screens, stain roof of school, paint all buildings, 2 coats on outside, one on inside, all other repairs, including the fence tamarack posts and an extra wire (note the depression is lifting and the old school is getting a "face-lift"). The fence repairs were to cost \$25.00 and all the others \$198.00. In July, 1934 it was agreed to pay the teacher \$700.00. In August a new secretary was appointed in place of M. Stashko. In Oct. 1934 a cord of wood cost \$3.00. In Dec. it was decided to spend \$12.00 on Christmas treats for the children (This was a new custom).

In Jan. 1935 wood was back to \$1.80 per cord for 20 cords for the school and 5 cords for the teacher at \$1.95 each. The janitor to receive \$2.60 per month. In May 1935 the board asked the Dept. of Education to permit them to pay the teacher \$650.00 per year. (Note the law said the minimum salary was \$840.00

per year). But on Aug. 13, they engaged Mr. J.E. Symyrozum for \$750.00. On Dec. 5, the board granted \$15.00 for children's Christmas treats.

In Jan. 1936 wood was \$1.70 per cord for the school and \$1.80 for the teacher. John Kuzio was chairman and Alex Harrish, sec.-treas. In June, Mr. Symyrozum was re-engaged for the next school year at \$700.00. In Dec. the Christmas treats were cut to \$13.00.

In Jan. 1937: janitor work \$2.75 per month, green wood \$1.75 per cord. New cream color blinds bought. In Aug. they replaced 4 panes of glass in the barn and one in the school. A broom mop, Union Jack, yardstick, water pail were purchased. In June they asked the Dept. of Education for permission to pay Mr. Symyrozum a salary of \$800.00 for the next year. On Aug. 14, it was decided to repaint inner walls of the school white, cream and buff, to buy a new door and lock and a new dictionary. In Dec. it was decided to engage a Medical Health Officer "to investigate the children". Jan. 28, 1938 Dr. Hankin was paid \$20.00 for this.

In May 1938, 2 softballs and a bat were purchased for the children and 1 box of chalk. The teacher was receiving \$79.50 per month and the janitor from \$2.75 to \$3.75 per month. In June 1938 a payment of \$15.00 tuition fee paid to Thorsby for Rosie Schram. On June 30, 1938 a debenture for \$1,000.00 at 6% and 6 annual payments was authorized to build another room on the school. But they had to finally pay 8% interest. L. Mundry's tender of \$1,850.00 accepted for the new room (Remember it was \$500 in 1910).

On Oct. 29, 1938 the new room was inspected and found satisfactory. Further expenses were: \$80.00 for shiplap for inside lining, \$12.00 for partitions for cloak rooms, \$8.00 for blackboard moulding, 6 new cream blinds, water pail, dust pan, 100 pounds sweeping compound (new idea).

At the Jan. 1939 annual meeting: janitor work \$5.00 per month for both rooms, 10 cords green wood at \$1.90, 2 cords dry wood at \$2.40 per cord, and 3 cords green wood at \$2.50 for Miss Babiak (junior teacher). In Feb. 1939 Peter Dedio appointed secretary to succeed Mr. Stashko. In March it was decided not to take the children to the city for the Royal Visit. Later in June, the Board wished to discharge the junior teacher but found he now had the backing of the A.T.A. and were told that they had insufficient grounds to discharge him.

On June 1, 1940 the minutes read "Board had decided to change teachers in both rooms for the next term. Janitor to be told to do better work and scrub the floors which looked neglected." On June 24, they decided to provide free ice cream for the children at the school picnic. In Aug., apparently the senior teacher resigned. They decided to appoint Miss Babiak to the senior room. In Oct. it was decided that Grades 10 and 11 attend Thorsby High School. (This tendency was general throughout the province and

marked the beginning of the end of the rural high school.)

In Jan. 1941 the board found themselves meeting with an A.T.A. Salary Negotiating Committee! It was agreed that the basic salary be \$898.00 per annum and an annual increment of \$25.00 per annum for 5 years. (Note: Here a new force enters the field on behalf of the teachers. Also there was a war on and teachers were becoming scarce.)

Oct. 31, 1942: The last entry in the minute book reads; school basement to be enlarged and 2 tons lump coal were ordered.

So the school after 32 years of service came to an end and all the children were taken by bus to the Thorsby School.

A few other notes of interest:

In 1921 taxes were \$22.80 per quarter and total budget for the year \$1486.97.

In 1911 the taxes had been \$8.10 to \$9.00 per quarter-section.

By 1916, the taxes were \$15.00 per quartersection and in 1919 were \$20.00 per quarter section. By 1922 they were \$30.60 for some quarters but by 1924 had dropped to \$19.50. In that year the C.P.R. paid \$292.50 in taxes. After 1926 there are no records of taxes collected. It was about this time that the municipality took over collection of taxes and paid grants to the school boards.

The last entry in 1939 shows receipts of \$2836.67 and a balance on hand of \$366.08 (exit the Weed Creek School.). In 1932 their receipts had been \$1710.40.

Some of the teachers at the school had been:

1913-1916 A.C. Berdan; 1917 B.C. Banner. Others during the 20's were: Mrs. V. Hatch, Miss Dunnington, Mr. Symyrozum, Miss Babiak, Mr. Whillans in 1922. Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Clara Vath 1923-24. Mrs. Ina Anderson. Mr. Prokop Floria taught during the war years.

RURAL PARISH OF WHITSUNTIDE RUSSO GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, THORSBY, ALBERTA

by Mrs. Stella (Nick) Zingle

This church is located 2 miles south and 2 miles east of Thorsby. The history of the church dates back to 1917-18. The residents of the area gathered in homes to worship. As the area was settled, a church was built with the effort of the people of the area, both Orthodox and other faiths. The building was shared for the purpose of worship. Serving the Orthodox group in those early days was the Right Reverend Archmandrite Arseny.

In 1920 a small group purchased a two-acre site from the C.P.R. for the purpose of a church and graveyard. Nick Harrish, Andrew Paholka, Mike Paholka and Peter Shymansky cleared the land,



Whitsuntide Russo Greek Orthodox Church southeast of Thorsby near Meridian Line.

designed and built the church which still stands today. The building was built of material donated by the members. Some of the clergy that first served in those days were Reverends Borachewski, Fedena, and Showenuk.

The present board is: Edward Harrish, Walter Kuzio, Nick Lyka, Peter Zingle, and Alex Sawitsky.

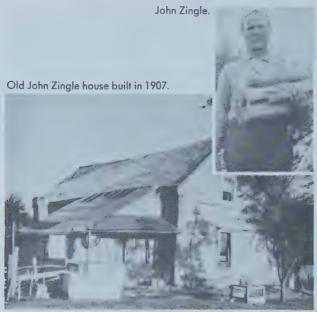
The first couple to be married in the church were Bill Stashko and Annie Terlesky. The joyous event took place on Nov. 8, 1924.

WILLIAM ZINGEL

by Leo Zingel

My father William Zingel was born Jan. 6th, 1895 to John and Mary Zingel in Czortkow, Austria. He came to Canada with his parents in March of 1900 and the family spent their first three years at Rabbit Hill near Ellerslie. In 1904 they moved to their homestead in the Weed Creek district. The Zingel family then consisted of Mary who was born in 1895, Antonia who was born in 1897 and my Uncle Bill who was born in Canada in 1902. Other children born to them were Steve in 1903, George in 1905, Nick in 1908 and Peter the youngest in 1912.

In 1904 there was no school near Weed Creek, which was settled with Ukrainian families. The parents organized a school district, a school board with a Mr. Hudson serving as Secretary-Treasurer, and built a school building between the years 1910-1912. Mr. Hudson's homestead was the quarter of land now owned by J. Bendoritis. Mr. Hudson later left the community and became an auctioneer. During the first few years school was only held during 4 or 5 months of the winter, with an enrollment of about 50 pupils. The school was named



Weed Creek and some years later a new and larger building was added.

In 1907 my grandfather and his sons built a large log house on their homestead. It had two large rooms up and two downstairs and was a fine home in those times. Later the house was finished with siding and had a cedar shingle roof. It burned down Dec. 21, 1977.

One of my aunts, Mary, married George Weslosky in 1905 and moved to Calmar to live. Another, Antonia, married Andrew Stankiewich in 1915 and moved to Huxley to live. In 1918 my uncle Steve and my dad ordered a few supplies and set up a store in my grandparents' home. The store carried essential supplies needed by the settlers and some of the family members recall the items were purchased from the Revlon Wholesale in Edmonton. A team and wagon owned by Mike Radowits, who lived a few miles west on the Town Line, were used to haul the supplies from Leduc to the farm. Mr. Radowits purchased from this store the hardware he needed for the large barn he was building.



Weed Creek School, 1924.
L. to R. — Back row — Bessie Bedry, Nick Zingle, Sophie Babiak, Dick (brother in law to Wm. Zingle's 1st wife), Alex Harrish, school teacher Miss Dunngington, Fred Harrish, Anne Babiak. 2nd row — Metro Babiak, Jenny Harrish, unknown man, Cora Dedio, Bessie Harrish and John Stashko.

My uncle Steve left for Huxley later to be near my aunt Antonia, and my father then built a store building across from the Weed Creek School, on land the family owned. About 1921 he opened his store and married Mary Malyk, they lived in the rear of the building. The store carried school supplies, groceries, hardware, tobacco, and other articles the settlers had need of. The closest store to Weed Creek other than my dad's was at Buford where a Mr. L.O. Anderson had a general store and telephone exchange. Calmar was some 10 miles away to the northeast. Settlers needing to call anyone in distant places had to go to Buford to use the Anderson's phone. A post office was located in the Anderson's building and he was the postmaster.

In 1927 my uncle Steve returned to Weed Creek and opened a store in competition to my dad. It was across the road and on the corner of another quarter the family had acquired, thus the Weed Creek corner had two stores and the school, and was a gathering place for the young people of the area. The Yawney family lived across the road on the next quarter to the west. Steve later left the area and eventually settled in Prince George, British Columbia, where he still resides.

My dad hauled cream and livestock to Edmonton and brought back supplies for the store with his truck and continued with the business until 1927 when he sold it to Melvin Anderson. Mrs. Anderson was a school teacher and she taught at the Weed Creek school while they operated the store across the road. My dad moved to Leduc and operated a store and a confectionery until 1930 when they moved again. This time it was back to the farm and his old home. My grandfather John died in 1928. My grandmother, who lived in Leduc the last months of her life, died within weeks of my grandfather.

In the spring of 1932 my mother passed away leaving Dad with four small children to look after and at the same time make a living. Later that year he was married to Cora Dedio. She was the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Dedio of Weed Creek. Their marriage took place in the small Union Church between Weed Creek and the Dniester school. It was the first wedding performed in the church.

After a few months my dad moved from the farm to the city of Edmonton where we lived for a short time. During the winter of 1933 he returned to the country where he opened a store in Calvery. When the C.P.R. railroad came west through Calmar it by-passed the town and a siding was named Calvery; it was about a mile south of Calmar. In 1934 Dad went back west and opened a gas station on uncle George's farm and later moved it into Thorsby where the family lived while our new house on 51 Street was being built (at that time there were no streets with numbers in the small hamlet). Dad managed this business and sold Gibson furnaces, which he also installed, for 18 years. During these years two



Weed Creek Store: owned and operated by William Zingle, 1920 - 1925. Was located on present Nick Zingle farm yard.

daughters were added to their family, which now consisted of Joe, Florence, Emma, myself (Leo), Joyce and Gladys. I built my present garage in 1952 when Dad retired from the business. Upon his retirement they moved to Edmonton where Dad continued to be active until 1975 when they retired to Kelowna, B.C. It was there that his health failed and he passed away on Aug. 6, 1977.

The younger Zingel brothers remained around the old home farm south of Thorsby. Uncle Bill married and settled on his own land just east of the school and raised his family there. After the war he sold it and moved into Edmonton, later moving to B.C. He died there on Oct. 26, 1970. Uncle George married a sister of uncle Bill's wife and he and my aunt Alice farmed on his land across form his parental home. The two Zingel sisters Mary and Antonia had died earlier, Antonia in Three Hills in June 1950 and Mary in Nov. of 1966.

Uncle Nick married Miss Stella Poholka and they took up farming on the quarter where Dad's store had been situated. Uncle Peter inherited the family farmland and married Miss Stella Kilik. (Her parents lived across the road). They still operate the farm as a mixed farming venture today. The farm has been in the Zingel family for over 75 continuous years.

My wife and I reside in Thorsby. My wife is a local



Some customers in front of the Weed Creek store.

girl. Her father John Jier was Thorsby's first mayor when it was incorporated into a village. Our oldest son Ronald lives in Calgary and our second son Jack lives in Drayton Valley. Douglas and Dale still reside at home along with Tim who will be finishing high school soon. My brother Joe married and raised his family at Alder Flats. My oldest sister Florence married and moved to North Battleford, Saskatchewan where they still live. Emma married a local fellow named George Brandabura and lived in Thorsby for some years. They now live near Edmonton. Joyce married and lives in Prince George, B.C. and my youngest sister Gladys is also married and lives in Kelowna, B.C.

With my five sons, the Zingel name which originally came to Canada in 1900 is bound to carry on for many years to come.

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THE LIFE OF MIKE AND ANNIE BEDREY

by granddaughter Stella Kilik Zingle

My grandfather Mike Bedry was born in Pozmyl, Ukraine, Sept. 17, 1853. His wife Annie was born in July 1872 at Zborich, Galicia. They were married in 1888 and moved to Canada in 1900, to the Strathcona area. They lived there and he worked for the C.P.R. till 1907, then moved to Buford which is now known as Thorsby district.

They homesteaded the place now known as the Anton Kilik farm. In 1907 he bought a farm from Mike Medryz — sec. 26-48-1 W5. In 1909 they sold this land to Mr. Fidina and moved to another farm, 24-48-1 W5. On this land they lived and raised 5 sons and 3 daughters.



Group are Mr. and Mrs. John Zingel, Mrs. Bedrey, Mrs. William Zingel, Peter Zingel and others unidentified.



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Bedry, 1956.

His work was very hard as he brushed bush with an axe and grub-hoe to clear land so as to feed his family. He worked at home and then worked out to make money. He brushed many roads that people travel on now. Oldtimers living yet will say, "This is the road that Mr. Mike Bedry helped to build." Or "This is land he helped to clear". When he cleared land there weren't many roots to pick after it was ploughed.

In 1931 he retired from farming and in 1935 his



Funeral procession at crossroads by William Zingel store at Weed Creek for Mrs. M. Kilik who had passed away.

son Mike Jr. took over the farm work. My grandparents then moved to the town of Thorsby and he got his first pension cheque of \$15 a month. Now that was not enough for a man and his wife to live on so it was back to the brush with grub hoe and scythe. He cut hay along the ditches and around town as there were no lawn mowers then. For all the lawns he cut, he charged 10¢ each. He helped cut the brush on Highway 39, both east and west of Thorsby and his pay was 50¢ an hour. In later years he dug up gardens for the town ladies so they could plant gardens.

In 1956 he took sick and had to enter St. Joseph's Hospital in Edmonton. He was there for awhile and passed away just 3 days after his 104th birthday.

His wife Annie lived with me, their granddaughter, and my husband for a few years, then moved to Edmonton where she passed away at the age of 90 years.

Their children are all living except my mother Mary who married Mike Kilik. She died in 1927 leaving 3 daughters, Annie, Jennie and Stella (myself).

The other Bedry children were Mike, John, Fred, Nick, Pete, Bessie and Nancy. Bessie is now Mrs. Merchle and Nancy is Mrs. Pollok.

My oldest sister Annie married Julius Bergstrom in 1938 and they have 1 daughter Joyce Watts.

Jennie married Victor Sitko and they have 4 sons: George, Larry, Richard and Morris. Sitkos were married in 1939.

I married Peter Zingle in 1942 and we have 1 daughter Madeline who is now Mrs. Smithson. She has 3 children: Rhonda, Billy and Curtis.

PETER DEDIO FAMILY

by Peter Dedio

My great-grandfather Bartholomew Dedio, was a French soldier who fought in the 1815 Napolenonic War with Russia. Because of living conditions during and after the war, many young people left France to settle in other parts of Europe.

Bartholomew settled in Poland and married Marianna Szaruga, a Polish girl. They had several children, one of which was John Dedio, my



The Anthony Dedio Family.

Mother and Dad. L. to R. — Cora (Dedio) Zingel, Josephine (Dedio)
Weslosky, Helen (Dedio) Guze, Francis Dedio, Anne (Dedio)
Robinson. Back — Walter, Joe, Mike, Peter.

grandfather, who emigrated by ship in 1902 from Przemysl, Poland to Halifax, Canada.

Travelling westward 14 days by train they arrived in Leduc, Alberta, with a family of 4 sons: Anton, Thomas, Frank and Joe and a daughter Bessie. She later married John Babiak.

They settled on a homestead, cutting trails through heavy bush country, clearing land to begin the tedious task of farming. The Stashko family emigrated about the same time from Czortkiw, Poland and settled on the land where the Weed Creek School would be situated.

My parents Anton Dedio and Mary Stashko were married in 1908. Dad acquired a homestead in the Dnipro district, 10 miles southwest of where Thorsby would later be situated. Their first house was a log cabin with a sod roof which was later covered with spruce slabs to help shed the snow and rain. One day the slabs caught fire but the house was saved as the sod made a good insulation.

My 2 sisters Cora and Josephine, brother Walter and myself were born in this house. Between seeding and harvesting the crops, my dad worked with a construction gang, building the High Level Bridge in Edmonton.



Peter Dedio and Family. L. to R. — Janice, Peter, Adeline, Wayne, Eileen, 1975.

In 1920 we were very happy to move to a new place. The buildings were better and we were only $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from our first school. While here, there were additions to the family, 3 more sisters and 2 brothers, namely Frances, who now lives in Kelowna, B.C., Anne who married Walter Robinson in Vancouver and lives there. Helen the youngest daughter married Ewald Guze. They became missionaries to Brazil but have their home base in Surrey, B.C.

Brother Mike remains on the old home place with his wife Edith. He is a jack of all trades and keeps busy. Joe, the youngest son in the family, is a carpenter by trade and also lives near Thorsby.

Cora who married William Zingel, is now a widow and lives in Kelowna, B.C. Josephine married Nick Wesolosky of Calmar.

The first year in school was difficult, as Cora and I could not speak a word of English. Our mother had taught us some letters in the Polish alphabet and a few words. One day the teacher told me to write something on my paper, and read it to the class. I wrote and read in Polish and they all laughed at me.

Our first teacher was William Whellans from Tofield. We had a lot of holidays as he had a farm near Capbillion School and had to work on it during spring and fall.

During our school days, we usually built snow forts, had snowball fights and played baseball in the warm weather. Tag was our favorite game. Sometimes we would take our dad's scoop shovel and meet the neighbor's kids down by the creek and slide down the hill on the road.

Attending this school was a freckled and skinny little girl who had recently come up from Montana. Her name was Adeline Vath and I never guessed that she would someday become my blushing bride. In 1939, in a new church built in the Thorsby district, Adeline and I were the first couple married.

My folks helped me to build a house on the farm across the road from them. Our first couple of years were hard as I had to grub the trees by hand, just as my father had done years before. Later on, brush cutters came into use and the rest of our bush was cleared by those machines. After I had cut and hauled a pile of logs for lumber, I decided to make my own sawmill. I then built a barn, chicken coop, machine shed and garage from that lumber.

In my spare time I made a small telephone. I used earphones to talk into and listened through them. A wire was strung from the telephone to the nearest wire fence and then to those of several neighbors, wherever connections could be made.

My hobbies, in those days, included making crystal sets and electric guitars. Later on I tried my hand at art work with chalk and now I paint with oils.

Our family consists of 2 daughters, Janice of Vancouver, B.C., Eileen of California, and 1 son Wayne also of Vancouver.

In 1963 we moved to Vancouver to manage my sister Helen's apartment while she and her husband

went to Brazil. We returned to Alberta every spring and fall to work our farm. Ten years later we made our permanent home in Vancouver managing a high-rise apartment.

WALTER DEDIO

I was born May 11, 1918 on a \$10.00 homestead in a little log cabin. The doorway being only 5 feet 6 inches high, anyone taller had to stoop to go in or out.

I moved with my folks to a C.P.R. farm three miles south of Thorsby, when I was one year old. I learned to speak Polish first, then I received my education at the Weed Creek School which had one teacher for about 64 children from Grades 1 to 8.

At the age of 19, I worked in Thorsby for my uncle, Joe Dedio, the butcher. In 1941 I served in the army at Camrose, then at Camp Borden Ontario as first aid man for a year, after training at the hospital for six months. I was discharged in 1943.

I moved to British Columbia and worked in an airplane factory for awhile and then took a job as meat cutter for about 15 years. Later I took a job in a machine shop for about 15 years.

For hobbies I skied, roller skated and ice skated. I learned to fly a Cessna plane, did leather and copper tooling, also lapidary.

JOHN DOOL JR. HISTORY

by Vera Dool

In 1941 John married Vera Sawula, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Sawula of Glidehurst, known today as Devon. They made their home on a farm and he started with 60 acres of cleared land, the rest was bush. He cleared more by hiring a man with a caterpillar and slowly was able to get most of it cleared up. His work was very hard and there was no power, telephone nor indoor plumbing in the community at that time, He and Vera had 3 horses, 2 cows and a few chickens and it was hard to get by. In time they were blessed with 3 children, Cyril, Lawrence and Dianna. After the children were 13 and 14 years old he started to work for the C.P.R. as a section hand and worked at that job



John and Vera Dool. Cyril, Lawrence and Dianna Dool.



Cyril, Dianna, Tracy, Tammy, Tina Dool.



Lawrence, Shirley, Richard, Michelle Dool.

from 1959 until 1969. Vera kept the farm going with the help of the children and John did what he had time for on weekends and evenings.

Their closest school was Weed Creek in 1950 as there was no road to Centre Lodge for them. Later, in two years time, a bus took the children to school in Thorsby.

Cyril finished grade 10 and helped his parents on the farm for awhile. Then he began working for Walter Melnyk in the Thorsby Hotel and worked there for 6 years. On August 15, 1970 he and Diana Sendziak were married and moved to Edmonton. He started to work for Otis Elevators and now works for Westinghouse Elevators as an elevator mechanic. They own their own home in Edmonton and have 3 children: Tracy, Tammy and Christina.

Lawrence finished grade 7 and then helped his father on the farm. He worked out one winter at Rainbow Lake as an apprentice mechanic and after that worked for Dave Steinke at the Thorsby Auction Market. On November 7, 1969 he and Shirley Eklund of Wetaskiwin were married and they lived on his parent's farm in a trailer they bought. Two years later he bought the farm that the Fred Harrish family had owned and they moved onto it in November, 1971.

Lawrence and Shirley are blessed with 2 children, Richard and Michelle. Richard is attending Thorsby Elementary School and Michelle began kindergarten in 1978. Lawrence started work as a janitor in the Thorsby High School and in addition to that work he



Clifford, Dianna, Sheldon Sathers.

farms their land.

They have improved the farm and added new buildings and landscaped the grounds and now, it is unrecognizable as the old Harrish place on the Weed Creek along the Town line.

Dianna Dool graduated from grade 12 in the Thorsby High School in 1968 and then moved into Edmonton and worked for Taylor's Pharmacy and later for the Edmonton Journal. On October 2, 1971 she married Clifford Sather of Warburg and they have made their home there since. Clifford is in joint partnership with Joe Koblos in a honey bee business at Warburg, supplying customers with large quantities of fresh honey.

They have 2 children, Sherry and Sheldon, and live on an acreage near the town.

STEVE DOOL — HISTORY

by Vera Dool

Steve owns a farm ½ mile south of his brother John and lives on it with his wife, Julia, and their only child David. After growing up on his parent's farm and helping with all the work on it he, began working away from home. One of his jobs was in the lumber camps near Breton.

In 1962 he married Julia Guba who was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hemela who had come from Yugslavia sometime earlier. Julia had been married previously to Mike Guba in Yugoslavia in 1942 and they had 1 daughter whom they named Julia. Mike passed away in 1947 and his widow came to Canada with her little daughter. They made their home with her parents north of Thorsby on the Hemela farm.

Steve and Julia were blessed with 1 son, David, who is now in Jr. High School in Thorsby. Steve's



Steve, Julia, David, Dool. Back — Julia Guba.

step-daughter Julia grew up and became a nurse. She worked at that profession for a few years in B.C. and then married Demas Horn. After living in B.C. for sometime they moved to Edmonton and now make their home near Thorsby and he works in Edmonton. They have 1 daughter, Louise, who was 8 years old in 1978 and attends Thorsby School.

METRO DOOL — HISTORY

by Vera Dool

Metro was born in 1924 and spent his boyhood on the Dool farm along with his 2 brothers and 1 sister, Annie. He was called to serve in the Second World War and was overseas from 1944 until the war ended and where he still served on guard duty. After returning to Canada he operated a caterpillar for 14 years and later married Katie Kolach from Radymno, Poland. She had emigrated to Canada after the war. They have made their home ever since on his farm south of Thorsby and only a couple of miles north-east of his brothers John and Steve. They have no children and are engaged in a mixed farming operation. Katie has been back to revisit her old home in Poland since they have been married.



Katie and Metro Dool on their wedding day.

THE JOHN DOOL SR. STORY

John Dool Sr. was born in Jaroslaw, Poland, in the district of Obrevka, and was married there. A story he told was, when coming home from their marriage with the wagon and oxen, the oxen, deciding that it was too hot to be moving, walked into some water and the young couple found themselves with lots of time for romancing.

John and his wife were blessed with 2 children, Mike and Mary, while in the old country. The family immigrated to Canada and farmed on the place where Mr. Ronalds lives today. They lived in a mud built house. The work was hard, they cut the trees down to make posts and hauled them to Leduc by oxen. It took them 3 days there and back. The hard living took its toll and John's wife passed away. She is buried in the cemetery which is known today as St. Nicholas Cemetery. John Dool Sr. was left with 2 small children. Later, in 1908, he married Katie Fedina, who had one daughter, Hazel (Mrs. Alex Chrunik). Katie was born in 1889 and came to Canada from the town of Radymo in the district of Stoohley, in the year 1908.



Mr. and Mrs. John Dool Sr. with their 1927 car.



Four generations of Dool Family. L. to R. — Joyce Nykipilo, daughter Anne Nykipilo (baby), Great Grandmother Mrs. John Dool Sr., Annie Verhun, 1961.

From that first parcel of land, John and Katie Dool Sr. bought the quarter on which John Jr. lives today. They were happy then, as they had a house made of cut logs and this house is still standing today. This quarter was first owned by Gabriel Sych. At that time, there was no post office, so Gabriel had a shack in which he handled the mail. John and Katie lived on this quarter until 1942. They then moved to the farm on which their son Metro lives today, the SE 27-48-1-W5. They lived there until 1946, when they took 1 cow and moved to Thorsby.

Mike Dool changed his name to Dooley and moved to the U.S. where he lived in Roseburg, Oregon, until his death at the age of 71. He and his wife had one daughter, Sandra. Mary (Dool) Russell lives in San Francisco and has 3 children.

John Dool Sr. passed away in May of 1948 at the age of 73. He is buried in the St. Nicholas Cemetery. Katie made her home in Thorsby until the fall of 1978, when she moved to the Leduc Nursing Home where she still resides. They were blessed with 8 children, of which 3 passed away at an early age. The rest of the children, John Dool Jr., Steve, Annie (Dool) Verhun, and Metro all live in the Thorsby area.

THE DREWOTH FAMILY

by Michael Drewoth

Mr. Wasyl Drebot was born in Austria in 1880. While in Austria he worked on a small farm, then in a woodworking shop where he learned to make sleighs, wagons, cabinets, etc. In 1901 he immigrated to Canada and worked on a farm in Manitoba. He later filed claim on a homestead in Manitoba and in the natural course of events, got married. He had 2 children from this marriage, John born in 1906 and Marie in 1908. Times were hard and the land did not produce well enough to make a living so he gave it up and moved with his family to the Lovalist-Coronation area. Here he tried to file on another homestead but was refused because he had already filed once. This was when and why he changed his name from Drebot to William Drewoth and then had no trouble getting another homestead.

His first wife died shortly after this and he then



Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Drewoth.

married Mary Glubish, daughter of John Glubish of Calmar. Marie had been adopted by a family in Leduc, and John stayed on the Coronation farm. Dad later bought another quarter of land just across from his homestead. His first house was built of sod, with a natural dirt floor. When it rained the roof would leak and buckets were used to catch the drips, but the roof would leak for about a week after the rain had stopped.

While on this farm they had 3 children, Mike born in 1913, Steve in 1914, Katie in 1916. I, Mike, well remember that the clouds would form all over, then lots of lightning and thunder, but no rain for weeks. It was very hot and dry for a couple of years. By now we had a house built of lumber and to keep it warm Dad built a temporary wall about two feet larger than the house and filled it with straw except where the windows and door were. During the summer months it was the job of us who were old enough to pick dry cow platters and horse bricketts which were burned in the kitchen stove. If they were not entirely dry they gave quite an aroma but they made a hot fire and cost nothing.

Dad decided to move to the Leduc area and so in 1919 arrangements were made for the big move of machinery, household effects, etc. The cattle were next and Mother and we children were last to leave. John was told to go to the next quarter and fetch the cattle, so he took me along on a horse and away we went. After rounding up the cattle he told me to chase the cows and horses home and he would follow later. But he did not show up. Dad drove the stock to Loyalist and Mother and we kids followed about two days later in the cutter. It started to snow and turned into a real prairie blizzard and Mother became lost because there were no fences in many areas and the roads were not graded so there were no ditches. She started to cry, then she spotted a light in a window and drove toward it. As she got near the house the farmer came out, put the horses in the barn and fed them, gave us supper and beds for the night. The next day was clear so we drove to Lovalist, boarded the train, and later that day for the first time in my life I saw a tree.

We arrived in Leduc and stayed for the winter at my grandparents' farm. About two months after our arrival an R.C.M.P. officer came to Grandfathers on horseback and asked to see my dad. He said that John had been staying at the hotel in Coronation and keeping his horse in the stable. He had said that Dad had kicked him out of home. So they were going to make Dad pay the board and room and stable fees which came to a lot of money. Dad proved to the R.C.M.P. that John had run away from home rather than being chased out. However, Dad had to pay anyway but John was sent to reform school where he stayed for about two years and then ran away. He married a girl named Emma Miller from Stony Plain and they moved to Vancouver where he has a saw filing shop.



Emily Drewoth Prokopy, Metro Drewoth and his wife from Vancouver with Peggy Drewoth kneeling at left.

From Calmar we moved to near the Michigan Centre School, where I first attended school at the age of ten years. We moved back to Calmar again and lived there until 1927, then we moved to Thorsby where Dad had bought Hudson Bay land. It was in early spring when Steve and I herded the cattle to Thorsby which was about sixteen miles west. The snow was deep and wet. The horses managed O.K. but the cows would go into the ditches and we would have to pull them out with a horse. I've hated cows ever since.

Calmar to us was a civilized place to live in, lots of open land, fair roads, nice town close by, close to school, etc. But Thorsby was something else. No roads to speak of except bush trails, water all over the place, bush everywhere, only an unfinished house and school 23/4 miles away. But being kids we soon adjusted. By now there were five more of us, Metro, Rosie, Fred, Emily and Paul.

When we moved to Thorsby, a creek ran through our farm and one early spring when the ice broke up Steve made a raft and launched it on the fast moving water. It was great fun until he hit a solid piece of ice and fell off the raft. He had on heavy winter sweaters and coveralls so he disappeared under the water but came up and climbed out. He was scared to go to the house as he knew he would get a spanking so he huddled up to the cows in the barn. We kids managed to get him some dry clothes but he caught a terrible cold anyway. My folks used to heat water in a 45 gallon wooden barrel by first heating rocks in the fire till they were red hot and then dropping them in the barrel till the water got quite hot. We did this and then lowered Steve into the barrel of hot water to soak. This was repeated for several days and he survived.

We all had to work very hard. Of 160 acres we cleared all but 30 acres by hand and broke it with a breaking plow and three horses. But we still had time to visit our neighbors, go to parties, not alcoholic ones either, and we had marvellous times. On Halloween nights about 6 or 8 of us would go out and harness cows, dismantle buggies and put them on top of barns, etc. One year Newton and Vernon Stellmaker, Isador Bergstrom, Steve and I went over to play tricks on Mr. Brosman the local blacksmith in the Weed Creek area. But he must have been expecting us as we were met with a

double-barreled shotgun loaded with salt. We scattered in every direction, but Vernon ran into a barbed wire fence going about 89 miles an hour (it seemed) with such force that he bounced back about 20 feet while Mr. Brosman was shooting over his head. He had spoiled our fun but no way were we giving up. Mr. John Dool, senior, had started for Leduc with a team and wagon loaded with wheat to exchange for flour. He had stopped at Wm. Zingel's store to buy some garlic sausage. While he was inside we removed the nut from the rear axle and he drove about 20 feet and down came the wagon box. He and Mr. Zingel loaded the grain onto Zingel's truck and took it to Leduc, but in the night it snowed about 4 to 6 inches and I remember Mr. Dool saying to my Dad that whoever it was who played the trick did him a favor as he would not have been able to come back from Leduc with the wagon with so much snow on the road.

As time went on we attended the small Union Church. I'll never forget the revival meetings we had and the wonderful fellowship. The small church on P.B. Callaway's place was packed most of the time. My dad never left home without his Bible. He made a small box under the seat of the wagon and one time the Bible slipped out and the horse bit off one corner of it. Through his Bible studies in homes he was responsible for some of the Babiaks, Zingels, Melnychuks, Dedios and Brandeburas joining the congregation.

While attending the Weed Creek Union Chruch I met Thelma Callaway, who later became my wife.

In 1936 I started to go to Vancouver, B.C. to look for work, by bicycle. I got as far as Crows Nest Pass and was turned back by the police because I had no job or money. During my travels I slept in garages, railway stations, box cars, and on hot ashes thrown out from the locomotives. I went back to Calgary.

I got a job in Calgary in 1936 as a carpenter for 50¢ an hour which was considered a real good wage. I worked all summer and in fall got a job in a small woodworking shop making kitchen suites which consisted of a drop-leaf table and a 5 drawer buffet. These we built and the suites included four chairs which we bought. Five suites had to be ready to be picked up every Saturday morning to go to the



Mike and Thelma Drewoth's family. L. to R. — Sons-in-law, Ian McClellan, his wife Pat, Ray Nelson. Father, Mother, Peggy Nelson, Son-in-law Joe Manna and his wife Leslie. Taken in 1976.



Drewoth family in August, 1969.
L. to R. — Back — John Ostapchuk, husband of Katie. 2nd row, Steve Drewoth, his wife Helen, Rosie Drewoth Maser. Front row — Mike Drewoth, Fred Drewoth, sisters Emily Prokopy and Katie. Sitting in front Vickie (Fred's wife).

auction. Later one man quit and then the boss cut his hand very badly on the shaper so I was left alone in the shop. But every Saturday morning the five sets of furniture were ready. I worked 16 to 18 hours a day and was getting only ten dollars a day. One week the boss didn't have the money and I only got \$2.00. But we always managed to pay our rent and we never went hungry. I did not mind the long hours or the hard work because I enjoyed what I was doing and I was learning my trade. I have never regretted the time spent in that little woodworking shop or the years later at the Hayward Lumber factory as I learned things in both places which I would never have learned doing plain carpenter work.

Thelma and I were married in 1936 and lived in Calgary for a couple of years, then moved to Edmonton where I was employed by the Hayward Lumber Co.

During the war I joined the army and after my discharge went on my own as a building contractor.

While living in Calgary, we met a young man named Walter McKnight who played guitar and sang. He sounded just like Wilf Carter. Once during Stampede Week we were watching the parade from an upstairs window and Walter was playing his guitar and singing. Everyone was looking all over to see where Wilf Carter was. It was Walter who taught me to play the guitar. I had always loved music.

We have 3 daughters, Patricia who is married to Ian McClellan and lives in Calgary. They have 3 daughters and a son, Darcy born in 1958, Dianne born in 1961, Robert Ian born 1963 and Dawn born

in 1966.

Margaret (Peggy) our second daughter married Ray Nelson. He is in the Royal Canadian Navy and they live in Victoria. They have 3 sons, Barry born in 1959, Cory born in 1961 and Mark born in 1962.

Our youngest daughter Lesley married Joseph Manna and they live in Sherwood Park. They have 1 son Jeffrey born in 1977 and a daughter Jill born in 1979.

After many years in Edmonton Thelma and I moved to Seba Beach and rebuilt our summer cottage into a permanent home. We are sort of semi-retired but it seems that tradesmen never can, as the demand is always there. I have a workshop and keep busy and thoroughly enjoy what I am doing. When we want a holiday we travel to Hawaii or some other holiday spot and have a rest. People who have worked hard all their lives, then retire and do nothing soon are dead and buried.

As for the rest of our family, all of my brothers and sisters have married; Steve, Fred and Paul live in Edmonton as does Emily Prokopy. Rose Maser lives in St. Albert where she and her husband have retired after farming for some years at Barrhead. Katie Ostapchuk lives on their farm in the Thorsby district. Metro served in the Canadian army and then moved to Vancouver and later to Comox where he passed away on May 30, 1972.

Our parents are both dead, Mother in January of 1960 and Father on August 3, 1966.

FARASCHUK — JACOB AND PAULINE

written by granddaughter -Louise Pignanelli

Jacob and Pauline were both born in Zaliesie, Ukraine, Jacob in 1863 and Pauline in 1866. Jacob married Pauline Orlyk and together they raised seven children; Peter, Josephine, Mike, Tony, Nick, Millie and Frances. In 1905 the eldest son Peter, at the age of 17, ventured to Canada to pave the way for his family. In May 1907 the Faraschuk family left their homeland and boarded a train for Antwerp, Belgium. They then continued their journey on the S.S. Queen Victoria, some eight days later arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The ship was very crowded and many were ill for days during the Atlantic crossing. Upon crossing the vast picturesque country of Canada they arrived in Leduc where they were met by their son, Peter. Grandma and Grandpa lived with Peter and Josephine Stashko until arrangements were made to move to their own homestead. Josephine was a sister to Pauline.

The Faraschuk family filed a claim for a homestead consisting of 160 acres - immediately east of Sunnybrook. At that time the area was a wilderness with many wild animals, especially bears. The bears were a constant nuisance coming near the home and threatening the children. After three years of this



Michael Faraschuk. Photo taken in 1920.

constant fear, the family decided a move was essential. A 160-acre farm, which was partially cleared was purchased for \$10.00. It was located two miles east and one mile south of Thorsby. (2,49-28,4). In addition to their household belongings, they had acquired two horses, two cows, and a wagon which proved to be assets on their new farm.

A fairly large log house with an upstairs was constructed, painted on the inside and white-washed on the outside. It was a beautiful setting with a bubbling brook running about 100 feet from the house. A great way to cool off in the hot summer!

January 31, 1909, - found the family busily sewing new outfits, preparing food and making last minute wedding arrangements. It was an important event as it was the first wedding in the family. In those times, a great deal of preparation was required - as most weddings were celebrated at least three days. The eldest daughter, Josephine, became the wife of Michael Sciban in the church at Rabbit Hill, near Calmar. They lived on a farm near Pigeion Lake until 1913 then moved to Saskatoon, Sask. Their three sons served on active duty with the Royal Canadian Navy during World War II. One son, Henry, was killed in action in 1940 during the heroic rescue by sea at the Battle of Dunkirk. In his memory the Saskatchewan Government has named a body of water on the eastern shores of Lake Athabasca "Sciban Bay".

Michael Sciban passed away in 1955. Josephine moved to her present home in April 1962 to be near her daughter, Louise and son-in-law Harold Balfour, who reside in Burnaby, B.C. Her youngest son



The wedding of Nick and Mary Faraschuk, 1932.
L. to R. — Michael Sciban, Nancy Faraschuk, Josephine Sciban, Frances Senetchko, Pauline Faraschuk, Peter Faraschuk, Nick Faraschuk, Nick Senetchko, Mary Faraschuk, Antonia Faraschuk, Ann Novakowski, a family friend, Emelia Workun and Peter Workun.



Faraschuk original log farmhouse. Photo taken in 1926 with Nick Wm. Faraschuk.

Edward and daughter-in-law Alga live in nearby Vancouver, B.C. Another daughter, Emelia and son-in-law Roy Battellino, live in Hayward, California, whereas her son Stanley and wife Joan make their home in Edmonton.

My father, Mike Faraschuk was the first son to get married. He took as his bride, Antonia Yawney on February 16, 1918. They were married at the Kost Sereda residence near Calmar on a cold wintery afternoon.

After the wedding they moved to Wayne, Alberta where my father worked in a coal mine, for a few years. They returned to the farm for a short time, then in early 1929 my mother and father ventured into their own business. With the help of their brother-in-law Nick Senetchko, the Thorsby Pool Hall and Barber Shop was constructed. Mom and Dad continued to operate the Pool Hall until it was sold in 1961. My brother, Nick and sister-in-law Laura, live in Colfax, Washington. My husband, Frank, and I, made our home in Spokane, Washington.

Grandpa kept the sons busy clearing the land and building a new house. In 1922 they completed a large two-storey house and the original log house became a summer home. The spacious new home had an open staircase with beautiful ornate hand carved railings.

The Faraschuk family was active in establishing the St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church in the Thorsby area. Many times the services would be held in their home. Later services were held in the Ukrainian National Hall which was built in the early 1920's, three miles east of Thorsby and later moved to the village of Thorsby. Pauline Faraschuk was the first President of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Women's Association of Thorsby. The hall was constructed first in order to raise money to build the church. They held

concerts, dances and bazaars. Box Social Dances were often held and at times proved very amusing; ladies would bring a box lunch - the fancier the box, the higher the bid. At midnight the box lunch would be auctioned off to the highest bidder. The lady would share the lunch with the purchaser. At times the secret would get out as to which lady made the fancy box and often the men would be crossed up and given the wrong lady's name as to the ownership. Oh yes, some ended up having lunch with their own mother-in-law.

Jacob and Pauline retired from farming and moved to Thorsby in 1932. Grandpa enjoyed being around people and was active in village affairs. With his handmade two-wheeled cart he delivered and picked up mail daily from the train station. From the Post Office he received the great sum of 25¢ a day. In 1933 Grandpa used his first pension check to purchase the two silk icon banners as a gift to the church. He continued to reside in Thorsby until his death on December 31, 1940. Pauline then lived with her daughter, Frances Senetchko, until she passed away at the age of 88 on April 18, 1955.

The three-tiered chandelier which beautifies the church was purchased by Pauline in memory of her husband Jacob, in 1941. Originally candles were used and were very effective especially during the evening services. It was later converted to tiny lights.

Aunt Emelia married Peter Workun of Calmar in May of 1923. They are presently retired from farming, however continue to make their home on the farm one mile east of Calmar. They are both active in church and community affairs. Aunt Emelia is a member of the Women's Institute and Uncle Peter enjoys the winter sport of curling. They have five children; a daughter Alice and son-in-law William Stroschein in Edmonton, a son Vernon and daughter-in-law Dianne also reside in Edmonton, two sons in Calgary, Allyn and wife Mettibell; Paul and wife Leona. Another daughter, Phyllis and son-in-law Bert Flemming, make their home in Vancouver, B.C.

My Uncle Tony remained on the homestead with wife, Mary, and daughter Rosy. At an early age he developed diabetes. Due to the lack of medical knowledge at that time he passed away at the young age of 40 in April, 1937. Mary later remarried and became the wife of Fred Harrish. Rosy makes her home in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

My Uncle Peter spent very little time on the farm as he spent most of his years working in various Alberta coal mines. The first few years it was necessary to send money home to supplement the meager income from the farm. Uncle Peter and wife Nancy returned to Thorsby in 1950, where he assisted his brother Mike in the barber shop. Aunt Nancy passed away in December of 1957, and Uncle Peter on June 14, 1959.

Nick Faraschuk the youngest son married Mary Jaworenko of Calgary in 1932, and remained on the Faraschuk homestead. They had five sons; Peter, Richard, Harvey, Henry and Dennis. Nick operated a large dairy farm and also was the early morning greeter at many farms - picking up milk for delivery to the cheese factory.

The eldest son Peter lost his life in a boating accident at Pigeon Lake at the age of 25 in August of 1958. Another son, Henry, was killed in an industrial accident at Takla Lake, B.C. in 1970.

Upon retirement, in 1967, the dairy farm was sold and the family moved to Thorsby. The family was active in the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church and commissioned a painting which adorns the church.

Nick enjoyed curling and was a member of the Thorsby Curling Club. He passed away Feb. 14, 1975 at the age of 75. Aunt Mary continues to maintain a home in Thorsby. Richard, Harvey, and Dennis live in Edmonton.

Frances, the youngest of the children, was born shortly after the family arrived in Canada. She later married Nick Senetchko of Calmar in August 1927.

With hammer flying, Nick constructed the O.K. Lunch and Grocery Store in Thorsby. The store was located on the east side of Hankin Street and was opened in 1929. He and his wife Frances operted the store, and later he became the Cockshutt Farm Machinery Agent. He is also credited with building the majority of the early establishments and many of the homes in Thorsby and surrounding districts.

Frances was the secretary-treasurer of the Thorsby School District in the early thirties; keeping records of all meetings, correspondence and collecting taxes for the municipality. Frances and Nick were both active in community and church affairs and also commissioned a painting which beautifies the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church in Thorsby. They moved to Edmonton in 1953. A son Reginald and wife Joyce live in Edmonton. A daughter Geraldine and son-in-law Donald Haythorne reside in Sherwood Park, while two sons make their homes in Calgary; Wilfred and daughter-in-law Sharel; Ted and wife, Donna.

Nick Senetchko passed away December 30, 1974. Frances continues to make her home in Edmonton.

MR. AND MRS. DEMETRO FRYK AND FAMILY

by Helen (Mrs. Alex Fryk)

Mr. Demetro Fryk came to Canada in June 1928 from Kalugiew, a village in Poland. After arriving in Alberta he worked for a farmer at Myrnam, then on the railroad. He saved enough money to be able to have his family come to Canada. In November 1930 his wife Pearl and 4 children, Alex, Nick, Bill and Annie joined him. Later the family moved to Rimbey, where Mr. Fryk worked on the railroad. Alex and Nick started their schooling in Myrnam and Rimbey.

After a few years the family moved to Glen Park, where Mr. Fryk bought a quarter of C.P.R. bushland, 7 miles southeast of Thorsby. Most of the bush was



Mr. and Mrs. Fryk and family.

cleared by hand and the first 15 acres of breaking was hired. Then they bought their own tractor, a Twin City, and a breaking plow, and did their own breaking. At first only a few acres of land was cleared. Mr. Fryk worked during the summer months at Buford for the C.P. Railroad. As more land was cleared Mr. Fryk remained at home.

The children walked 3½ miles to Weed Creek School; they also attended Kulm School for awhile.

In their family were Alex, Nick, Bill, Annie; Mike, Fred, Leo, Metro, Mervyn, Benny and George. On June 17, 1946 Bill passed away after a lengthy illness.

During the summer of 1961 they built a new house. About 1967 Mr. and Mrs. Fryk retired from farming and remained on the farm with their youngest son, George. Mr. and Mrs. Fryk were married 56 years on July 13, 1976 and were in fairly good health until Mr. Fryk became ill in the spring of 1977 and passed away on July 12, 1977. Shortly after, Mrs. Fryk went to live in Calgary with her daughter and son-in-law, Annie and Wally Stashko.

Also living in Calgary are Mike, Leo, Fred and Metro. Alex lives in Leduc, Nick lives in Edmonton, Mervyn lives near Thorsby. Ben lives in Calmar, George remains on the home farm at Thorsby.

Mr. and Mrs. Demetro Fryk's family include in 1978, 23 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

THE HARRISHES OF YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

told by Alex Harrish to Nadia Harrish

The Harrish story goes back to 1906, in Austria, now known as Poland. Nick Harrish, born in 1865, a widower with five boys (John, Ilco, Steve, Fred, and Ignot), married Mary Maryka. Mary was a widow with four children (John, Kate, Annie and Mary). In 1907, I (Alex) was born. After disposing of our belongings and after fare costs were paid, Dad was left with \$280.00. On May 8, 1908, with a family of ten, we left for the faraway land. We arrived in Leduc on June 2, 1908. George Kuzio (five miles west of Leduc) met us



Mrs. Mary (Maryka) Harrish)

and we lodged at his place for a while. We rented a house for a year from Mr. Olekshy, a nearby neighbor. The place was sold so we moved once more. This move was to a farm three miles east of Thorsby owned by Mr. Douglas. The house that we occupied at the time still stands on the farm now owned by John Huculak.

The family was now increased by two daughters (Jenny and Bessie).

In 1910, Dad bought a quarter section (NE 2-49-2 W5) one mile east and one mile south of Thorsby from Fred Adamic for a price of \$600.00. Dad gave a \$100.00 deposit and took over a \$500.00 mortgage from Mr. Adamic. When we moved there, a house, barn and a granary were the only buildings. There were three acres of clear land and the remaining had to be cleared by hand. I recall Dad bought a cow named Blackie from Mr. Douglas, which made Mom happy because now she would have milk for the children. We kept Blackie in the barn. After a couple of days we turned her out to pasture but found out she sucked herself so she was back in the barn for winter and tied to a tree in summer.

That same year Dad made a trip to Edmonton on foot. He bought his first team of horses, (a gelding and a mare) and an old harness at an auction. The return trip took him two days.

The following winter he cut 500 willow posts to be sold at Leduc for supplies and groceries. He hitched the team up at two in the morning, not knowing that the mare was bucking and would not pull her share. After trying about six times the gelding died on the spot. Being very saddened, Dad went to Mike Terlesky (a neighbor) and borrowed a team to take in the posts. Receiving about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ a post he brought home supplies and groceries consisting of flour, sugar, tea, coffee, and salt as all the other food was home made or home produced.

Wheat was difficult to raise because of early frost, so Dad increased his herd of cattle to twenty. The hay was cut by scythe and piled by hand. He held an auction to sell his cattle (keeping one milk cow). William Hudson was the auctioneer. Dad got \$625.00 from the sale with which he paid off the mortgage and got a clear title to the farm. He then began raising another herd of cattle to be sold.

In 1912 a family house was being constructed with

logs taken from the farm. This was about the same time Weed Creek School was being constructed. We children attended school only six months of the year (during winter) because there was not enough money in the school district to pay a teacher full time. Mr. Borden was the first teacher and William Hudson the first secretary treasurer. When the school first opened in 1913 there were 52 children attending. The ages ranged from seven to eighteen. There were too many children to be taught at one time so the class was split and the older ones attended night classes.

In 1918 when the other herd of cattle were sold Dad bought a quarter section one mile west and two miles north of Calmar for his son John Harrish. He then bought a quarter section for Ilco north of the home place, and a quarter section for Ignot across the road. Steve and Fred Harrish and John Maryka getting farms in turn.

In 1920 my dad was active in the building of the Whitsuntide Russo Greek Orthodox Church 2 miles south and 2 miles east of Thorsby. As the area became settled, the people combined their efforts to build it. Both Orthodox and other faiths shared it for worship. My dad donated his help and materials. He was a cantor in the church and being a religious man, read his Bible and taught his children lessons from it at home.

In 1923, I (Alex) went to work at the age of 16. I worked at the Clover Bar coal mine for Mr. Attawel for \$35.00 a month and room and board. Later I heard wages were higher at Lethbridge and I went to Wrentham, 35 miles S.E. of Lethbridge. I worked on the railroad for \$2.40 a day and boarded myself, clearing about \$50.00 a month. When I returned to Thorsby I was able to buy a bicycle, a suit of clothes and other things with the money I had saved.

In 1924 Dad purchased his first car, a 1918 Ford. Three years later, on August 10, 1927 he passed away at the age of 62, while making hay. As I was the only boy left on the farm I took over the responsibilities (at the age of 20) of helping Mother to run the farm.

In 1928 Jennie married a Radowits and had a family of two. She and George are retired in Summerland B.C. now.

Bessie married John Hayduk in 1930 and they had a family of four. Bessie is now deceased.

I met Annie Adamkiewicz at a local dance. She grew up in the Conjuring Lake area and had attended school there during her youth. She was the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Adamkiewicz. Annie and I were married on Feb. 10, 1930. My mother continued to live with us until January 15, 1944 when she passed away at the age of 77.

John married Annie Sturko, and they had three children. Their son Art continues to farm his dad's original quarter section. John is now deceased.

Ilco married Eva Kowal and they had four children. Their son Walter farms his dad's original quarter section. Ilco is now deceased.

Steve married Mary Terlesky and had four children. Steve and Mary are both now deceased.



Virginia Harrish McMillan, Alice Harrish Lyka, Edward Harrish and their parents on Alex Harrish's birthday.

Fred married Mary (Kowal) Faraschuk. They had three children. Fred is now deceased.

Ignot married Katie Kuta. They had four children. Ignot is now deceased.

John Maryka married Julia Blazenko. They had a family of five children. Their son Peter farms his dad's original quarter section. John is now deceased.

Kate married Bill Lechuk, and they had a family of six. Kate and Bill are both deceased.

Annie married Mike Belozer and had a family of one. Both Annie and Mike are now deceased.

Mary married William Koznuk and they had a family of three. Mary is now deceased.

My wife Annie and myself are now retired on the original farm. We have two daughters and one son. Our oldest, Alice married Nick Lyka and has two children. Nick and Alice make their home in Edmonton. Virginia, our youngest, married Gilles (Gill) McMillan and they have three children. Virginia and Gill make their home in Edmonton.

Our second child, a son, was born April 15, 1935. Edward known as Eddie, spent his school years at Weed Creek School. He walked to school until he was old enough to ride a bike to school. Some winters when the roads were blown in and it was too cold to walk, Eddie would spend the night at Nick Zingle's who lived across from the school.

In 1945, we bought our first tractor, a Farmall. While going to school Eddie helped with the daily chores around home. When he got older he found numerous jobs to earn his own spending money. In 1956, he found employment in the city. He then bought a 1951 Studebaker. In 1957, I became ill so Eddie took over the responsibilities of the farm. In 1959 after I recuperated he started working for the Thorsby Hotel where he worked until 1978. On June 25, 1959 Eddie married Nadia Chubocha of Calmar. They resided with us in the original house which has been renovated several times.

On Dec. 11, 1961 they had a daughter Donna. Their second daughter Sharon was born on July 5,

1963.

In 1966 Eddie and Nadia and their two daughters moved to Thorsby. In 1970 they purchased a house and it was moved onto the yard of our farm. In 1971 Eddie and Nadia settled in their home.

On May 31, 1971, their third daughter Karen was born.

In 1974, on retirement, Ann and I bought a mobile home and moved it onto the same yard.

Eddie and Nadia had a son, Jeffrey on Oct. 22, 1974.

We all continue to make our home on the original farm that was owned by my parents Nick and Mary Harrish. The house which was built in 1912 was taken apart in 1975. The logs from it were salvaged.

Eddie, Nadia and family are farming and Ed is also employed at Nabors Drilling at Nisku. Their 3 daughters (Donna, Sharon, and Karen) attend Thorsby School. Jeffrey does not as yet attend school.



Ed Harrish in front of their 1951 Studebaker car.

The church my dad assisted in building (which has been renovated several times throughout the years) is still the place of worship for the family.

The farm originally owned by Nick Harrish has now grown to bring about the fourth generation. Although I experienced many happy occasions along with some hardships throughout the years, it is still a joyous place for family gatherings and Sunday dinners. The farm has had much history and may my grandson (Jeffrey) the fourth generation in our family, continue to carry on the history and traditions of the Harrishes.

MICHAEL KILIK FAMILY

Michael Kilik left his home in Nowy Mienkiez in the province of Rzezow, Poland. Mike, along with Alex Schram and Alex Rybe, obtained employment where possible in France and Prussia (Germany), in order to earn their way through Europe toward their "promised land" of Canada. The young men then set sail for Canada, which took approximately 1 month to cross the Atlantic. Upon arrival in Halifax, they earned sufficient money to go on to Quebec, and then to St. Catharines, Ontario. Mike again obtained employment where work was plentiful — on the Welland Canal.



Stella, Jenny, Mother and Annie Kilik. Front — Elizabeth, Helen.



First Weed Creek School.



Back, L. to R. — Stella Zingle, Annie Bergstrom, Metro Kilik, Elizabeth Hlus and Helen Kilik. Front — Irene, Mom and Dad Kilik, Joyce, Anton kneeling in front. Christmas, 1956.

In 1913, Mike proceeded west to Leduc, Alberta where he was told land was in abundance. He purchased the NE 26-48-1-W5 quarter section of land originally owned by Mr. Fadyna.

Mike Kilik soon after married Mary Bedry, of the local community (now Thorsby), and they had 3 children, Annie, Jenny, and Stella. Unfortunately, Mary passed away when the children were very young. The task of clearing land was delayed as Mike undertook raising the children alone in two-roomed log house with the help of Grandma Bedry. He raised ducks and geese, livestock and a small garden for their own use.

In the spring of 1927, Anna Charchun arrived in Canada from the Village of Niemilowie, Poland at the age of 21. Anna also recalled her trip to Canada as being very lengthy. Shortly after her arrival in Leduc, Anna married Mike Kilik.

Early shopping for staple foods and necessities was done at Leduc. This complete trip took approximately 2 days, with a team of horses. Mail was brought into Buford, then much later, a rural route was established. Mr. Blomquist delivered mail to the Weed Creek Corner Store, owned by Mr. Fred Zingle. Across from Zingle's Store, the Weed Creek School was established where all the children received their beginning education. Annie recalls taking 2 eggs to the Zingle Store in exchange for a pencil.

The family attended the Greek Orthodox Church 2 miles east of Weed Creek Corner. Rev. Father Kokolsky, who celebrated his 100th birthday in 1978, was our minister. All the children were baptized and most were married by the same minister.

During those days of pioneering and establishment, the neighbors helped one another in every way possible. Doctors were scarce then, so when there was need for a midwife, our kind and efficient neighbour, Mrs. Dedio, was always there. She was also willing to offer help with sewing for the children, or give assistance in any other form. Joyce recalls Mrs. Dedio remodelling her a mouton coat for school.

We children recall many cherished evenings spent with our friends and parents telling us tall tales of their childhood.

Our father, Mike Kilik, lived on the farm until his death in 1956. Our mother, Anna, carried on farming with the children until, Anton, the youngest son, married and took over the farm. Mother retired in 1969 and resided in Thorsby until her passing in 1971.

The Kiliks raised 11 children: Annie, married to Julius Bergstrom; Jenny, married to Victor Sitko; Stella, married to Peter Zingle; John; Metro, married to Melva Roth; Nick, married to Jean Malka; Elizabeth, married to Edward Hlus; Helen, married to Dave Luneng; Irene, married to Leslie Bacsik; Joyce, married to Douglas Wyllie; and youngest, Anton, married to Agnes Zierath. The family includes 25 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

THE EDWARD AND ALBERT KISON STORY

by Albert Kison

The marriage of Matilda Sucko and Edward Kison took place on the 18th day of April, 1919, at Bessarabia, Romania. Mother was the eldest in the family of 5 girls and 1 boy of Michel and Louisa Sucko. Dad owned a little property so Mother moved to his place and they decided to go to Canada as the future didn't look too bright between Russia and Romania and Dad didn't want to go through another war as he did when he was in the Russian Army. Four children were born by this time: Clara, Albert (myself), Woldimar, and Alma.



Picture taken from Besarabia, Romania just before our departure for Canada. Albert, Dad, Clara, Alma, Mother and Woldimar.

Dad had an aunt and uncle living in Canada, Mr. and Mrs. John Bauman Sr., with whom he used to correspond. They were the only relatives he had since his parents had passed away when he was very young. He wrote a letter to his aunt and uncle telling them that he was going to sell his property and come to Canada. In June of 1927 the folks sold their farm and had an auction sale to get rid of most of our possessions because we were only allowed to take so much along from the old country.

It took 4 weeks of traveling by train and ship to come to Canada. We came across the ocean on the Beaverbrae and landed at St. John's. From there we went by train to Leduc. There a car was hired to take us west along what was known as the Town Line, the rest of the way. About 3 miles from our destination, the car got stuck in a mud hole, so Dad walked to a farm to see if he could get some help with a team of horses to get the car out. To his surprise it was a cousin, Ed Bauman, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Bauman. The car was pulled out and ther rest of the way we were taken with a team of horses and wagon. The road was really bad - most of it was cordured wood with a little dirt on top. There were many mud holes and at one time the water and mud came into the wagon box. This was July 13th, 1927 and at this time the impression of Canada wasn't too good. But there wasn't enough money left to return.

Dad bought a farm from Mr. Rasch. There was a little shack on it for a house. It was built of single ply



Kison's Corner

lumber and tar paper. There was also 15 acres cleared and seeded to grain and the grain was just coming up. The farm was located $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Thorsby where we grew up (only Thorsby wasn't on the map yet) and there wasn't a road south of our farm either.

After we bought the farm Dad went to Leduc and bought 4 horses that were only halter broken, and a wagon from Emil Steinke Sr. We stayed at the Bauman residence for 2 weeks 'til we got settled on our own farm. The crop was frozen and it only made green feed, so Dad got a job at harvest time hauling and pitching bundles.

The Week Creek School was 1 mile east of our place. There were 2 stores also - one was across the road to the north of the school and owned by Melvin Anderson, the other was to the west and was owned by Fred Zingle.

At this time we owned a cow so we had our own milk and butter. When winter came Dad would go out west and cut some tamarack rails and he also hauled some lumber from the Morrow saw mill to Kavanaugh and Leduc. The winters were cold so he would walk most of the way behind the sleigh. He would leave early in the moring while it was still dark and come home sometimes at midnight. Some of the tamarack rails were traded for groceries and clothing or whatever was needed. When the weather was milder, he would go to the bush and start clearing land. We all had to pitch in and help - the small trees and brush were chopped down with an axe and piled up and the bigger ones were left to be grubbed out in the summer time. The house was heated only with wood and all winter long we would cut blocks of wood with a cross-cut saw so we would have enough for a year's supply.

The next year Dad borrowed a walking plow to put in the crop. The seeding he did by hand, scattering the grain on the ground and harrowing it in. Mother would make coffee by burning some wheat in a pan on top of the stove 'til it was burnt almost black. This was run through a little coffee grinder and a little chickory was added which you were able to buy at a store. Wheat was also milled at the flour mill into flour. Dad would also take some barley and run it through a grist mill

and that was our porridge. After spring work was finished, Dad went to a saw mill to get some laths to fix the house so it would be warmer in winter. The laths were left to dry. Later on you could whitewash the walls. We also put some siding on the outside.

In 1929 the railroad came through and Thorsby got to be our closest Post Office. Rolston's General Store and the hotel were the first to be built. Church service was held every Sunday at someone's home. Everybody brought some lunch along and visited with different people in the community after the service. They were John Bauman's family, Ed Bauman's family, Ed Kison's family, Albert Rinas's family, Sam Buss's family, the Meckle family, the Beierbach family and Jack Stall, to name a few.

I can remember cars and trucks getting stuck on the road east of our place and everyone came to our house for a team of horses for a pull. Many times Dad had to go to the pasture and get the horses first, and a lot of times it was raining and at night. Lots of people stopped at our place to feed and rest their teams while freighting lumber and posts from the west as this was the main road. Their horses were put in the barn, and the men brought in some blankets and slept on the floor. When the road was built from Thorsby south to join the town-line, it became a well-travelled road and our place was called "Kison's Corner". It also was a stopping place for the bus as many people left their teams and caught the bus to Edmonton.

The first barn was built by Dad. It was made of poles and slabs. This was replaced in 1937 with a log barn. The logs were squared on 4 sides with a broad axe, and ripped in half with a big saw by hand. Fred Klatt helped to build the barn. The house was replaced with a new one in 1943. Mr. Nick Senetchko was the carpenter and Rudolf Schmidt did the plastering and stucco. Most of the lumber was bought from John Hackstol north of Warburg.

In the meantime 2 more children were born-Arthur and Robert. Clara married Emil Zittlau and they lived just north of our place. Later they moved back to the Strawberry District. They now live in Wetaskiwin. There are 7 children in their family: 3 boys and 4 girls. I married Edith Schwarz of Edmonton and we live 10 miles N.W. of Thorsby in the Strawberry District. We have 4 children, all boys. Woldimar was in the army, and he passed away in 1945. Alma married Oscar Gunsch. They have 3 children: 2 boys and a girl. Arthur and family live at Barrhead and Robert and family live in Edmonton.

In 1964 Dad and Mom sold their farm to Art Schmidek and took a trip abroad to Germany to visit many relatives, which they hadn't seen since they left the old country. When they returned in the fall they bought a house in Leduc and retired in April of 1969. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on March 1st, 1970. Dad passed away at the age of 73. Mother lived in the house until it was getting too much for her, then in November of 1976 she sold the house and moved to Wetaskiwin to live with Clara.

The school I went to was Weed Creek, which was only 1 room and the teacher taught all the grades from 1 to 8. There were between 50 and 60 pupils. Mrs. Irma Anderson was my grade 1 teacher, and the rest of the grades 1 was taught by Mr. John Symyrozum. I also was the janitor for the school for 3 years. My job was to start the fire every morning, bring in the wood and keep the fire burning, fetch the drinking water from a farmer's place across the road, sweep the floor, wipe the dust off the desks and clean the blackboard and brushes. I also had to wash the floor once a month in winter and twice a month in the summer time. In winter it was still dark in the mornings when I went to start the fire. For all this work I received \$2.50 per month. We always had a picnic at the end of the year in June. That's when the parents would come and watch us do all kinds of racing, jumping and playing ball. There was lots of ice cream and candy too. We also had a Christmas Concert every year. I was on a ball team and we would walk twice a week to play ball with a Dniester School team and a Thorsby School team.

In March of 1935 I had reheumatic fever for 3 months. Dr. Hankin would come to see me once a week or whenever he drove by our place. Mother had to help me turn over in bed from one side to the other or sit up for a few minutes a day as I was helpless.

I quit school at the age of 14 as my parents couldn't afford to buy the books needed to go for a higher education. That fall I worked on a threshing machine with a team of horses pitching bundles. It was hard work and my muscles and wrists would be sore the next morning. I also developed blisters on my hands. The next year I went to work on a dairy farm west of Ellerslie for \$25 per month. There I had to work every day from 5:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. I got 2 Sundays off every month.

When harvesting started I received \$1.00 per day for stooking and threshing. In those days it meant 10 or 12 hours. That year I bought my own transportation - a bicycle. That was "something" because not everybody had a bicycle! For the winter the farmer wanted to give me \$10 per month but I wanted \$15. Cows were milked by hand, so I quit and came home to my parents for awhile. Later I got a bush job in a lumber camp out at Buck Creek, with Ole Hallan. In the forties the times were getting better so I got a job with a carpenter at Calmar.

Then, when my brother Woldimar was called up for the army, I had to come home because Dad couldn't handle all the work. We had more livestock and had also rented some land. I was mostly helping at home in the summer time and worked in the saw mills in winter. Then in 1943 Dad bought his first tractor - a new W4 International on steel wheels - from Matt Samardzic. He didn't know too much about an engine, so I was in charge. Then we rented some more land, and I also did custom work for other people. In 1945 Dad bought a half-section of land in the Strawberry District from Tony Wilson. It is known as the "Louis Place". That was quite a long move as it was 12 miles

from home. We also had our own threshing machine then.

In 1947 I took over NW 20-50-1-W5. There wasn't too much land cleared. I cleared some by hand but the bush was too heavy, so I hired a brush-cutter, and got some land cleared and broke it with a tractor. That winter I worked at a sawmill again and I got enough lumber to build myself a house and a few granaries. For a few years I worked with Dad until I was able to buy myself an old tractor. I also had 5 horses to start out with. Then I rented the south quarter from my dad and I started to batch. In the wintertime I would always get a job away from the farm. In 1950 I tried the oil fields. The pay was good. I got \$10 a day for rough-necking. I stayed there 5 months, then I had to quit and put in my crop.

In Dec. 1951, I met Edith Schwarz who had arrived from Germany in February of that year with her mother, brother and sister. On Feb. 14th, 1952, Valentine's Day, we got married in the Thorsby Lutheran Church. At that time I had a few hogs, and I received a cow from my parents as a wedding gift.

The next 5 years were rough going as our crop was hailed out 3 times. The first year our income was very small. We received about \$5 in 2 weeks for cream, so I borrowed money to buy 2 more cows. In 1954 I had to go out working again as we weren't able to pay our taxes and our land was going up for tax sale. I got a job for 2 weeks helping to build the Beaver Lumber building in Thorsby. After that I got a job at Drayton Valley for the rest of the summer building homes for Mobil Oil Co. At this time we had only a wood stove, coal oil lamp and lantern. It was real bad in the wintertime as we couln't afford to buy coal to heat the house and the fire would die down pretty fast at night. Sometimes the water would freeze in the pail. There was no gravel on the roads and there were hardly any ditches. The hills were so steep that when it rained we had to leave our vehicle and walk home. We also got stranded with big high drifts of snow. We had no well go get a pailful. The well was a quarter mile away. Later we had a well bored 110 feet deep, but there was only enough water for the house. We got the water out of the well with a bucket and rope. In the winter I melted snow to feed the pigs as it was too cold to haul water in barrels from somewhere else. After trying a few more times to drill a well without success, we decided to buy another farm.

In the spring of 1958 we bought the NE 13-50-2-W5 from Matt Daruda (the former Cedric Dolling place) and moved to it. This place had the power on it but there was no road to speak of.

We raised 4 boys - Edmund, Wilfred, Clarence and Gordon. On Feb. 14, 1977 we celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary. The boys surprised us with a trip to Hawaii for 2 weeks. Gordon looked after the chores and that was the first holiday Edith and I had. It was also the first plane ride.

Edmund married Lillian Tomaszewski, daughter of John and Vera Tomaszewski of Sunnybrook, on July



25th Wedding Anniversary to Albert and Edith Kison. Sons L. to R. — Gordon, Clarence, Wildred and Edmond.

14th, 1973. They have 2 children. Pamela was born in Nov., 1975 and Kristinia was born in Feb., 1978. They live at Fort McMurray. He is on his own in the construction business. Wilfred married Susan Van Doesburg, daughter of Bill and Jenny Van Doesburg of Rolly View, on Oct. 20th, 1977. They also live at Fort McMurray. He is also in the construction business. Clarence married Sharon Herceg, daughter of Steve and Rose Herceg of Edmonton, on April 8, 1978. They also live at Fort McMurray. He too is in the construction business. Gordon is at home. He is in grade 12 and attending school in Thorsby.

MICHAEL AND ANNA KULHOVENIA FAMILY

Michael was born on November 8, 1895 and his wife Anna was born on March 18, 1904 in Grodno, Russia. They were married in Canada and lived in Edmonton and the Calmar area until 1946, when they bought a farm and moved to the Thorsby area.

Their children are: George, presently of Thorsby, born November 15, 1931.

Kay of Derby, Kansas, born December 18, 1932. Olga of Kamloops, B.C. born November 10, 1936; Sophie of Thorsby, born July 9, 1940 and Georgina of Thorsby, born on July 29, 1946.

Michael died April 28, 1978 at the age of 82 years. Anna still resides on the farm.



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kulhovenia.

HARRY KUZIO

Harry was born March 21, 1907 to his parents, Annie and Dmytro Kuzio, on their farm S.E. 22-48-1-W5 five miles south of Thorsby. He was a brother to John, Sam, Metro, Mike and Mary (Mary Morrie of Leduc). Harry attended Weed Creek School, which was only open during the winter months. Evening classes held to accommodate all students were not uncommon.

Harry grew up on the farm. There he helped his parents clear land, build buildings and haul posts to

Leduc to buy necessities.

In 1921, he bought a quarter of land just north of his parents' home. Harry recalls spending many evenings at the small corner store by Weed Creek School. The Dnipro Post Office, on brother John's place, just west of his own, was a very important office. There you could meet important people like the R.C.M.P. and government officials.



Harry and Sophie Kuzio in 1975.



George and Elaine Jonson, Ann and Walter Kuzio.

Harry was married on June 21, 1930 to Sophie Kuta, a girl who had arrived at her sister's place in 1927 from Poland. They lived on his parents' farm until 1932, when they moved to their farm N.E. 22-48-1-W5. Harry and Sophie had a family of four — Olga (1931-1932), Walter (Sept. 23, 1933), James (1936-1937), Helen (Elaine) (Oct. 4, 1941). Olga and James passed away as infants.

Harry and Sophie carried on their mixed farming operation, farming both their own land as well as leasing neighboring farms on share leases. They later purchased his parents' farm. Annie and Dmytro moved to Thorsby where Dmytro passed away in May 1948 at the age of 78. Mother, Annie, moved in to live with her youngest son's family where she stayed until her passing in June, 1956 at the age of 92.

In 1957, the farming operation was turned over to son, Walter, who had been taking an active part in his father's farming operation. In 1962, Harry and Sophie moved to their new home built in Thorsby which was to serve as their semi-retirement home and is still their place of residence today. They are still active members of the Whitsuntide Russo Greek Orthodox Church where their children were baptised



Mr. and Mrs. Lenus Johnson and son George.



Grandchildren of Harry and Sophie Kuzio.

Back row — Angeline Kuzio, Glen Kuzio, Jerry Jonson, Jackie Jonson. Middle row — Elaine Kuzio, Kathy Kuzio. Sitting — Twins: Bobby and Barry Jonson, and Alan Kuzio.

and married.

Son, Walter, still operates the family farm. Daughter, Elaine, married George Jonson, son of Laura and Alenius Jonson of the Glen Park district. George and Elaine now have a family of 3 sons: Jerry, Bobby and Barry, and 1 daughter, Jackie. The Jonson family moved to the Peace River country in 1962 where they lived in Grimshaw operating a drug store. They later moved to Fairview where they own their own drug stores. George originally apprenticed as a druggist at the Thorsby Drug Store. George and Elaine and their 3 sons still live in Fairview. Their daughter, Jackie, lives in Edmonton where she is presently attending the University of Alberta.

THE STORY OF JOHN KUZIO

By Grandddaughter Sylvia L. Popik

John Kuzio was born on May 10th, 1894 in Lazy, Poland (then the country of Austria) to his parents Tom and Anna Kuzio. It was only a few years later, when John was a young boy, that his parents decided to make their home in Canada, a place with much land, offering a better life. So in April, 1902, John, his parents, his grandmother, his two uncles Fred and George Kuzio, his older and younger sisters Annie and Mary, and his younger brother Sam sailed to Canada. The name of the ship was Bulgaria. They arrived at Halifax, Canada, 18 days after leaving their homeland. They continued their journey by train and after 12 more days they finally reached their destination, Leduc, Alberta.

At Leduc, they were met by John and Peter Dublanko and taken to the Nisku district, which at that time was called Rabbit Hill. John and his family made their home on a homestead owned by Mr. Thomas Pyrch. They lived in a small house and helped clear the land for other settlers. It was there that they received their taste of Canada. During this time John's brother Metro was born.

John began his schooling in Rabbit Hill having Mrs. Lehane as his teacher. It was in that little school that he was first familiarized with the English language. He came to know many classmates and their families, including the Manchak family. Little did he know that 16 years later one of the Manchak girls would become his bride.

In 1903, John's father moved his family to a farm he had purchased from the C.P.R. located north-east of Calmar. This farm was later sold to the Kushinski family. In the spring of 1905, John's father died suddenly of a heart attack, never seeing his son who



Fred and Annie Kuzio in 1923.

was soon to be born.

John's mother married Fred Kuzio, a brother of her late husband, and the family then moved to another farm close by owned by Mr. Wurban. John's brother Mike was born at this time.

In 1906, John's step-father took a homestead (SE 22-48-1-W5) located 5 miles south of Thorsby. The family moved to their new home as soon as a house had been built for them. There they cleared land and accepted the hardships in life, as did the many other families during that early time. In 1907 another brother, Harry, was born into the family.

The years passed and in 1914, John, at the age of 20 years, had earned and saved enough money to buy himself a 6 h.p. engine for cutting logs. He sawed wood for many farmers and soon was able to trade it in for a 10 h.p. engine used for sawing wood and grinding grain. John hired Harry Melesko to help him with his jobs and together they cut wood and ground grain for many farmers in the Thorsby and Calmar areas. About a year and a half later John decided to leave home and got a job working for the railway near Wabamun.

In 1917, he bought a quarter section of land (NW 22-48-1-W5) close to his family's homestead from a lawyer for \$1,420.00. He only had \$400.00 so he borrowed the balance from a bank in Edmonton. His payments were \$100.00 each year. The interest rate was 10% (rather high for those times) so John later took out another loan at the Leduc bank with only a 7% interest rate and paid off his first loan. This farm was previously owned by John's Uncle George who had left it and moved to Winnipeg. On it was a small house, the size of a grananry, which had been built earlier by Mr. Mike Mudry. John cleared land and worked out with his woodsaw in order to make a living. He sawed logs at John Zingles for the remodelling of his house. This same house was later moved and after some renovations is now the home of the William Bauman family.

During this time, for enjoyment and entertainment, John played the violin and drum in an orchestra headed by William Bonsiel. Metro and William Podgurny were also a part of the group. This orchestra provided the music for many dances and weddings.

On March 4, 1918, at the age of 23, John married Annie Manchak and together they worked on their land and on their home. John's two sisters had married a few years earlier - Annie to George Sawka, and Mary to Walter Morrie. His brothers married later - Metro to Annie Yawney in 1924, Mike to Katie Ostapchuk in 1929 and Harry to Sophie Kuta in 1930.

Soon after John and Annie married they started their family. Their twin daughters died at birth but a healthy baby girl whom they named Mary was born to them in 1921. In 1923, another daughter Nellie was born.

Tragic news came to them in August, 1923 when John's brother Sam, who had been working for the railway in Hanna, Alberta died of pneumonia at the age of 21 yrs.



The Wedding of John and Annie Kuzio on the Manchak farm in Rabbit Hill on March 4, 1918, photographed by Mr. Harry Bamber of Leduc. Back row — John Maryka, Max Yaremko, Harry Sharko, lady unknown, man unknown, lady unknown, directly behind her is Mike E. Kuzio - brother of groom, Harry Kuzio - ½ brother of groom, two Yaremko brothers - first names unknown, directly below them are Mary and Walter Morrie - sister and brother-in-law of groom.

Middle row — John Harrish, Steve Wurban, Metro Sych, groom and bride - John and Annie Kuzio (nee Manchak), Katie Yaremko, man unknown, Miss ? Kohut, Eva Manchak - sister of bride, directly behind her Mike Kuzio, Mr. Chikotski, Mrs. (Mike) Mary Kuzio, Laura Manchak - sister of bride, Metro Workun.

Bottom row, sitting — Matt Papirnyk, Bill Podgurney, Miss ? Glubish, William Bonziel, Miss ? Borys, and Metro Podgurney.

In 1924, John filed on a homestead for \$10.00 (SE 14-49-1-W5) but later traded it in exchange for \$300.00 and a car. This land is now owned by Mr. Harry Troudt. That same year John went to Leduc to a machinery display and there he saw a larger tractor and threshing machine. His heart was set on buying them but his pocketbook couldn't afford the \$2,800.00. A \$1,000.00 cash down payment was required but he had only \$700.00. Being determined to buy this machinery he borrowed \$300.00 from a friend, Mr. John Zingle, went back to the Moss & Bullock Agents and made his purchase. That same day as John was leaving Leduc, taking home his proud possessions, Mr. Harry Bamber stopped him on the street and asked if he could photograph the new machinery and of course, John willingly agreed. (Photo Included)

John then began threshing grain for many farmers from the districts of Warburg to Glen Park, working days and also many evenings by the flickering lights of kerosene lanterns. Long and hard hours were endured by him and his 5-man threshing crew. For John, this proved to be a very good investment, and soon he had a clear title to his land, his loans paid off, also managed to buy more machinery and even a couple of horses, cows, and some chickens. After two years, the machine wore out due to the many miles it travelled and the many long hours it threshed. John finally sold

the machine to Mr. Macaulay and later bought a newer one.

During these years John remodelled one room in their house which became the Dnipro Post Office. Mr. Mike Babiak delivered the bags of mail to their home. For operating the post office John was paid)15.00 per month by the government, but he also earned extra money for filling out forms when people came to him to register their children. He ran the post office for 5½ years. The railroad came through and the small post offices were closed down since one in the village of Thorsby had been built, and could accommodate the mail for a larger area.

By this time John and Annie's family had increased



This photo taken by Harry Bamber in Leduc in 1924, the day John Kuzio bought his new tractor and threshing machine. The other two men in the picture are Mike Mudry and Andrew Melesko.

- a daughter Millie was born in 1925, a son William in 1928, a daughter Eileen in 1931, and the their youngest child, a son Edward was born in 1934.

Their children attended school at Weed Creek which was 4 miles away from their home. They walked the distance in the summer, but in the winter, because of the cold blizzards and snow, their father's horse (by the name of Nancy) and a sleigh provided their ride to school. John was one of the trustees of the school for many years.

Joh and Annie Kuzio watched their children grow and proudly watched them marry - Mary to John Kuta in 1941, Millie to William Mudry in 1944, Nellie to Alex Rubuliak in 1946, Eileen to Paul Bucyk in 1957, and Edward to Wilma Klein in 1961. And in turn, their children watched their parents celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1968.

John's mother had passed away earlier, on June 2, 1956 at the age of 91 yrs. On June 10, 1969, his wife Annie passed away suddenly after a brief illness. His son William (better known as Bill) then took over farming. In 1975 John went to live in the Parkland Nursing Home in Leduc. On Feb. 6, 1977 his son Bill passed away. John's grandson Dennis Kuta now farms the land.

John Kuzio has many memories to recall and now at the age of 85, he enjoys them as well as his good health, his children, his 22 grandchildren and his 14 great-grandchildren.

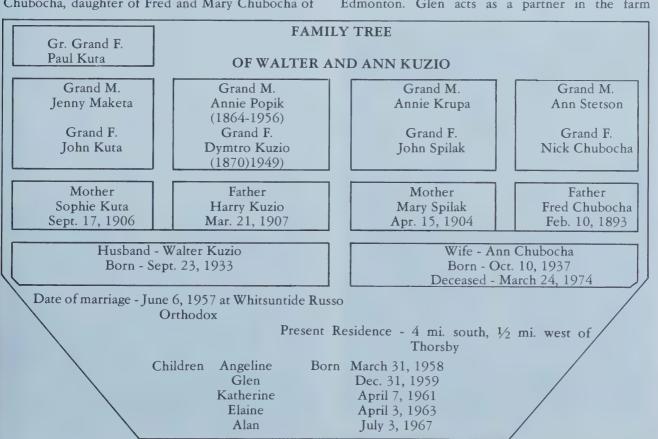
WALTER KUZIO

Walter, son of Harry and Sophie, was born Sept. 23, 1933 on the farm N.E. 22-48-1-W5 four miles south of Thorsby. He attended Weed Creek School and Thorsby School for only a short period when a teacher was not available at Weed Creek. After Walter completed Grade 9, he attended vocational college in Edmonton, taking Diesel and Automotive Mechanics, and S.A.I.T. in Calgary where he took a short course in welding.

In 1957, Walter took over ownership of the family farm. On June 6, 1957 he married Ann Chubocha, daughter of Fred and Mary Chubocha of

Calmar. Ann had worked at the Bank of Montreal in Thorsby for several years before her marriage. Walter and Ann had a family of 5, 3 girls and 2 boys — Angeline, Glen, Katherine, Elaine, and Alan. Ann became ill and on March 24, 1974 the family suffered the loss of wife and mother.

The family farm operation is still carried on after 4 generations. Katherine, Elaine, and Alan are attending school in Thorsby. Angeline completed a course in Computer Systems at N.A.I.T. and is presently employed by Canadian Utilities in Edmonton. Glen acts as a partner in the farm





Walter and Ann Kuzio Family. L. to R. — Back row — Anne, Alan, Walter, Elaine. Front — Kathy, Glen and Angie.

operation.

Whitsuntide Russo Greek Orthodox Church, the little church on the hill, as it is often referred to, is still attended regularly by the family. Walter also serves on the church board. Walter takes an active part in community affairs. He is a member of the County of Leduc Recreation Board, Secretary of the Warburg Seed Cleaning Association, Board Member of the Thorsby Rural Fire Association, as well as President of the Thorsby Curling Club.



Walter Kuzio Family. L. to R. — Angie, Walter, Kathy, Elaine and Glen. Alan (in front).

MEMORIES OF THORSBY & DISTRICT

By Florence Zingel Latour North Battleford, Sask.

My grandparents John and Mary Zingel left Charko, Austria to settle in Alberta. The district was then known as Buford and is now Thorsby.

My father William was introduced to Mary Malyk, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John Malyk of Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan by a minister and she later became his bride. I was born in 1922 and Joe, my brother was born over a year later. My aunt Helen Malyk came and stayed with us for about 2 years and helped take care of us.



Old Weed Creek School in background with Helen Malyk Hart and her nephew and niece: Joe and Florence Zingel.

Dad had a store and trucking business when we were little. He used to haul stock to Edmonton several times a week. He would rise early, and after picking up the load he would come back home for breakfast between 8 and 9 a.m. On his return trip from Edmonton he would bring binder twine, coal, or fuel and grease (gun and cup for machinery). Sometimes he would get bitten by pigs or kicked by cattle while loading them. When Joe was old enoguh he helped his dad. Dad's bulk business was always a going concern, many times I stood in the cool winds and pumped 45 gallons of gas for farmers. Cup grease, gun grease, axel grease, transmission oil, all got on one's clothes or in their hair when filling containers. He was a farmer as well as a trucker and was always busy and we, his children helped.

I remember the old home of my grandparents which was built of logs. It had two rooms and a side kitchen with two rooms upstairs. It was built in 1907 and burned down in 1977.

There was a lovely winding road to their home. The siding on the house was never painted and the rooms were plain. It had an old fashioned wood stove and heaters were used to keep it warm in winter. I recall very vividly how Grandma used to bake bread, There was a shed by the house which had a clay oven. It was heated with wood and all the coals and ashes were raked out of the oven so it was clean, then the bread was put in. Those loaves were scrumptious when baked and had an outdoor flavouring.

Our daily chores were simple on the farm. Joe and I used to pick up the eggs. Mom would boil potatoes and mix them with chop and we would feed the pigs. I



At William Zingel's included in picture are Joe Zingel, Florence Zingel, William's children.

will never forget the experience when a boar got loose and chased us. I was frightened and we climbed the wood-pile. Another incident happened when Joe wanted to feed the pigs. He leaned over the fence too far and fell into the pig trough. I was too scared to go into the pen so I pulled him out by the legs. What a mess he was in! Another occasion when we had to get the cows (we were between 3 and 5) and it had rained heavily. Where a tree had fallen down from its roots and left a hole that filled up with water, Joe slipped and fell into it. I almost fell in too trying to rescue him.

I remember the groceries in Dad's store. Cheese was sold by a slab, bananas were hanging and one took a knife and cut down as many as they wanted. There were no refrigerators to keep things cold. Farmers used to bring in eggs in exchange for groceries. Crabapples were stored in large boxes and sold as needed. Bread was 5¢ a loaf and candy bars were 2 for 5¢. The necessities were met and there were a lot of happy people in those times.

The neighbors were friendly and easy to get acquainted with. Visiting was common, you didn't wait for an invitation. Homes weren't stocked up with baked goodies but when company came there was bread and butter, milk and tea or coffee. My stepmother used to send me over to Helfensteins to get some milk and Mrs. Helfenstein would give me a



Visit of the Late King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Edmonton in

slice of bread with molasses, and it was good.

Few books were found in homes and the newspapers were the Winnipeg Free Press and the Western Producer, and later the local paper.

My first school was in Leduc and it was during this time I was very active, always going out to where horses were tied to the hitching posts. In the late fall or early spring I fell down and got hurt with the result I was in the hospital and got T.B. in the bones. When we moved to Grandpa's place I went to school at Weed Creek and we always walked as it was about a mile.

One day when I was going to school some boys pushed me into the snow and this prolonged my illness. I remember when Mr. John Symyrozum was teaching and just about washed everyone's neck and ears outside in a basin of cold water because someone had a dirty neck.

Then I furthered my education in Thorsby but due to my illness and setback I quit in grade 9. My worst memory of school was being late as we had to wash the dishes, regardless of the time.

My earliest memories of church was going to Anton Dedios home where Mr. Daduck, the minister held services. Later we went to a union church and Mr. Stellmaker asked me to play the organ. I had been introduced to the piano by Pastor and Mrs. Goos in Thorsby and had taken a few lessons, but was mostly self taught.

I shivered in my shoes when he asked me to play the church organ because I knew nothing about sharps and flats and could only play one hymn. Anyway I sat down at the organ and bowed my head asking God to show me how. This was my beginning and how thankful I am that God has honored my faith. From its beginning I was pianist of the country Pentecostal Tabernacle south of Thorsby.

There were in the congregation Zingels, Wesloskys, Dedios, Mogdans, Pauls, Wanagus', Hunkers, Helfensteins, Mrs. Bedry, Klymkos, Drewoths, Gunschs and many others. We had Sunday morning and evening services, prayer meetings, baptisms, Young Peoples' meetings, Thanksgiving rallies and all bring precious memories flooding back.

I remember 1939 when King George VI and Queen Elizabeth arrived in Edmonton, my dad knowing the city drove us to all points so we could have the best view. What a thrill it was! Under the C.N.R. subway their motorcade was stalled and the Queen was presented with a bouquet of flowers. I remember WW2 and afterwards on August 15, 1945 VJ day. Different nationalities were dressed in their costumes, soldiers, sailors and airmen were parading in full uniform.

Then everyone went out to the airport hangars to see the displays of various war planes, then the fireworks were set off, and everyone was delighted to have free lemonade and doughnuts. A day to long remember.

Before that in Thorsby, during the early 40's we had to practise the blackout. That gave one a queer feeling. We didn't have Calgary Power then, just the old motor across from our place pounding away. The road conditions in those times were bad when it rained. You could be stuck in gumbo or clay unless you were quick and alert.

I married Alfred Latour, originally from Delmas, Sask. on Nov. 22, 1950 and we lived in Rosthern, later moving to North Battleford. He is a maintenance man and is always at some kind of job or another.

We have 5 children, Grace Alfreda born July 10, 1952. Sharon May born May 23, 1957. Beverly Hope born June 13, 1959. Eugene Floyd born March 21, 1961 and Cynthia Debbie born March 8, 1965.

DANIEL MACAULAY, WEED CREEK POSTMASTER

Written by Verlie Knight Macaulay

Daniel Macaulay was born at Dandallan, Rosshire, Scotland on July 9, 1841. He came via sailing ship to Canada at the age of 24 years. He worked for a number of years for the Hudson's Bay Co. at Hudson Hope as H.B.C. factor, on the upper Peace River. During the time he worked for the H.B.C. at Edmonton he took trains of Red River carts from Edmonton to Winnipeg and back via old Fort Carleton, crossing the prairies and fording the rivers in the 1870s. That was the only way freight could be taken in those days.

After 5 years for the H.B.C. he homesteaded the land now known as the Mayfair Golf Club in Edmonton. He farmed and prospected for gold on the North Saskatchewan River.

During this time he spent some time at what is now known as Mission Beach on Pigeon Lake. While farming at Edmonton he bought the first mowing machine and binder ever purchased in Strathcona.

It was while prospecting on the river near Pakan, Alberta, that he met Mary Norn, formerly of Portage la Prairie, and in 1868 they were married. Daniel returned to Scotland for a visit during 1871 leaving his wife and family with her family near the Victoria Mission. Mr. John McDougall was stationed at Pigeon Lake. In the spring of 1871, his wife died at Victoria leaving John with three small daughters. Mary Macaulay helped to care for them along with her own until Mr. McDougall remarried in 1872. The Macaulay family eventually numbered twelve children.

The family lived near Ellerslie for a time after 1885. Then Daniel and one son homesteaded on S.W. 10-58-1-W5 near Weed Creek where the family came to live. Years later they had the Weed Creek post office. Supplies were mostly purchased in Leduc, and as there were no roads, they had to be brought home on horseback in the summer. In 1929 the C.P. Railroad came through the district and towns sprang up along the way. Thorsby was the closest town but

Daniel did not live to see it. He passed away in 1929 at the age of 89 years. His wife Mary lived a few more years and died at 87. Both are buried at Fisherton Cemetery, also 1 son Harry. At the time of writing this, (Aug. 1978) there are 3 of their children left: Joe and Albert who are retired in Wetaskiwin and Annie in a nursing home in Leduc.

ADOLF NEUMAN FAMILY

by Eric Neuman

Adolf and Olga Neuman came to Canada (Alberta) from Poland in the fall of 1928. After working and



Adolf and Olga Neuman. Paul, Hilda, Eric.

farming in the Michigan Centre area, they came to the Thorsby district in the spring of 1932 with sons Paul, Eric and daughter Hilda. They rented a farm from William Zingle, the W of 24-48-1-W5 in the Centre Lodge district until 1935. The lease was not to be renewed and a home had to be found. The SW 25-48-1-W5 was for sale and was purchased from Steve Sharko and the C.P.R. land department. The bush was cleared by hand and the land was broken with horses. This was a very slow process as the trees were big and the brush was real heavy. Cattle were pastured on the land not seeded to grain and that helped thinout the bush.

The SE 25-48-1-W5 was for sale in 1941 and was bought from Steve Weslosky, over half being still bush. A house and a barn were then built from lumber cut from the trees. A dairy herd was established and the milk was shipped to the N.A.D.P. in Thorsby. A threshing machine and tractor were purchased and threshing was done in the area for about 15 years. Land clearing was easier with the tractor and they did some land breaking for the neighbors.

Adolf and son Paul bought the E½ 23-48-1-W5 from Martin Stellmaker, Father taking the south quarter and Paul taking the north quarter which he still

farms and is his home farm.



1952.
L. to R. — Nick Kilik, Adolf Neuman, Steve Dool, John Dool, Peter Zingle, Edwin Helfenstein, Paul Drewoth, John Kilik.

A rubber-tire tractor was purchased and also a combine and a hay baler. The dairy herd was disposed of and a beef herd was established with hogs also a part of the operation. In 1973 the beef herd was sold and a house was built in Thorsby where Adolf and Olga live in semi-retirement.

Hilda married Mark Day of Lancar, Saskatchewan. They have two boys, Jeffrey and Aubrey and live on a ranch on the south bank of the South Saskatchewan River. They also do some grain farming.

Eric purchased the SE 25-48-1-W5 from his father and did gravel trucking for a number of years and then purchased the NW 25-48-1-W5 from Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Helfenstein in 1962. He has a beef herd, cleared the rest of the bush and bought new and bigger equipment and does the farming now.

The pictures show the progress in farming, from horse binder to tractor power and stook threshing to modern combining. With September '78 being the wettest ever on record, the old methods might have been useful.

Some of the things about earlier years were the hardships of the '30s, of poor roads or no roads at all, of walking 2 miles to school (Centre Lodge and Weed Creek), and being drifted in for weeks at a time in winter, but then those were the good old days.

THE PAUL NEUMAN STORY

by Paul Neuman

It was a beautiful bright sunny afternoon when we arrived in the Thorsby district. The year was 1932, and being springtime, the roads, were in terrible condition with large mud holes.

My early memories included my first trip into Thorsby by wagon with my father. I received a nickel while in town and was told to go and buy some candy. Entering the Thorsby Drug Store, I saw 2 well-dressed men and one of them asked me what I wanted. For that nickel I received a bag of peppermint candy that at today's prices would have cost a dollar. Father did

business at the Fred Zingle store and when it became dark, light was supplied by a coal oil lantern. We drove home in the dark.

Life in those days was full of hardships such as: wells that did not have enough water, huge black poplar trees that had to be grubbed out, a shortage of horsepower, and bad roads for so many years. There were people willing to work for a dollar a day clearing land or picking roots.

My education started in Centre Lodge School and later I transferred to Weed Creek School when my parents moved onto the Steve Sharko quarter. With the constant demand of the farm, I was not able to continue my education at the high school level. However, later I spent 3 winters in a Christian Theological Institute.

I started to farm in the late forties, locating on the Martin Stellmaker farm, N.E. 23-48-1 W5. In 1951, I married Miss Deloris Price of Millet, Alberta. We have 4 children.



Front — Paul Nueman and Wife Deloris, Grace. Back — David, Judy and Ronald.

David, who received his education in Thorsby, attended NAIT for 2 years and spent 1 year at the University of Alberta. He married Miss Pat Muz of Edmonton and is employed with an Edmonton glass company. Ronald, who graduated from Thorsby High School and took 2 years of drafting at NAIT, is employed by Edmonton Power. Judy graduated this year from Harry Ainlay in Edmonton and is employed with the Royal Bank. Grace is 8 years old and is attending Duggan Elementary School.

My wife, Deloris, who is an R.N., went back to nursing at the Leduc Hospital in 1966. She is presently on the nursing staff of the University Hospital. We are still grain farming, having phased out the cattle and hog enterprises. Occasionally my income is supplemented by an off-season job in the city.

The 46 years I spent in the district leave memories of hardship, pleasant experiences, and pleasant times. To sum them all up I wish to say, "Those were the good old days!".

EMIL & DORA NIKOLAI

by daughter Gladys Sobon

Dad (Emil) immigrated to Canada from Poland in the spring of 1928, at the age of 18 and landed at Ellerslie. He knew 3 languages excluding English. He worked for farmers around Leduc until 1929. Dad went looking for work in Ontario, but in 1934 it was greener in Alberta so he hopped the freight train and rode on the top of the freight car. He then settled west of Millet. There he worked on the Pubun's farm doing odd jobs such as sawing wood, etc. Later in 1938, he leased Hudson Bay raw land on the Meridian Line, near Thorsby for \$1.00 per acre, with purchase option.

At an auction sale in 1942 Dad met Mom who is a daughter of Andrew and Olga Klemky from the Fruitland District. They were married in July in the Sunnybrook Lutheran Church by Pastor P. Hanneman.

For their honeymoon, it was "Homestead, here we come!" They moved into a log shack plastered with mud and straw, containing a wood stove and bare cupboards. Their mixed farming operation started with 5 cows, 5 horses and lots of busy clucking hens, who raised their own chicks. There was lots of bush around, so axes and grub hoes went to work to clear the land.

Even with farming being hard work, Mom and Dad decided to raise a family. In 1943, Gladys was born at the Misericordia Hospital. That year gas was rationed but the neighbor (Mr. Ewald Elgert) came anyway and gave Mom a ride to Edmonton. Melvin was born in 1944, Ken in 1946, and another daughter, Marlene, in 1949.

In 1947 Dad purchased a Model T Ford for \$125.00. Oh, what luxury!

In 1950 Melvin and I walked 3 miles (one way) to Weed Creek School, which is presently the property of Marvin and Georgina Wager. Winters were always zero or colder and lots of snow. Snow drifts were 4-5 feet high but with it crusty, we walked on top, up and down. Remembering back, hay for cattle was hard to get. One neighbor (Mr. D.M. Kuzio) managed to have his sleigh and horses walk on the crusted snow, but when he got to our hill, the horses fell through because us kids had our fun by digging tunnels all over, even across the road.

Later we (Melvin, Ken, Marlene and I) walked 1 ½ miles to meet the bus. We sure weren't going to miss it either! Our first bus driver was Mr. A. Markstedt.

Later in years, we were fortunate to receive bus rides from our gate, however, the roads were either muddy with ruts or snow drifts so deep that no one could pass over our hill. But Dad, keeping great pride in a good team of horses, always managed to get the bus over the hill. Mr. Adolf Besler would know all about that! Fun was had by the students on the bus when Mom fed 42 students hot chocolate and sandwiches. Snow was too deep to walk in so Dad let



Barn: The Nickolai family bought this barn from Art Schmidt in the Morrowdale district in 1959 and moved it onto their farm and finished it. The barn was built by the Province family who sold their farm to A.

Schmidt

the horses pull the bus by themselves.

For kids, pillow fighting was one of the biggest entertainments, but things were always in the way. Melvin missed me once, and the lamp shade came off but never broke because I grabbed it with the palms of my hands and boy, did they ever blister. Somehow pain was always easier than getting a strap.

In 1951 times were getting better. Dad purchased a D Tractor and in 1952 a new Chev. car for cash.

Finally in 1953 they went on a holiday to Banff. Ben Grohn, a cousin, stayed with us and helped with the chores. That was a wet year. I remember riding our old horse, Babe, who sank in the muskeg field when I was getting the cows. I thought I'd never get her out but Ben and Melvin did it somehow.

Tragedy hit our farm in March of 1959 when our barn (with cows) was lost by fire. We also lost all the adjacent buildings and feed.

In 1960 we got electricity on the farm. Boy, what excitement! Mom now had it a lot easier. Dad asked the four of us which we wanted first; a deep freeze or a T.V. We chose the deep freeze, and it is still working.



Emil Nikolai family about 1968. L. to R. — Marlene (Popik), Ken, Melvin, Gladys Sobon and parents seated in front.

In 1976, Melvin and wife Elaine, and son Darcy purchased the home place while Mom and Dad retired to the village of Thorsby. They live across from the Community Centre in a new, well deserved home, which they make available for dancing classes. Ken and his wife Doris, and children Tanya and Jason live at Swan Hills. Mr. and Mrs. Doug Popik (Marlene) and girls, Charmaine and Chandell, live on an acreage near Thorsby next to the Hudson Bay land. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sobon (Gladys) and sons, Perry and Ron live on a farm north of Breton.

Over the years, Dad was able to bring one brother and a sister over here to live. As parents, they were active in church doings and now in community affairs. The difficult decision Dad made in 1928 to leave a homeland so far away in order to start a new life, was a good one.

MICHAEL & ANASTASIA PAHOLKO

How Michael and Anastasia Paholko Coped With It By Stella Zingle.

Highly respected and widely known, Mihalko (Mike) as he was and still is affectionately called by his acquaintances, was born in the year 1888, to Samuel and Agafia (Halushka) Paholko in the village of Vetlin, in the Yaroslav territory of the old Austrian Empire.

Desiring a better life for themselves and their family, Samuel and his wife departed for the "land of



Mike and Anastasia Poholka Wedding picture, 1910.

milk and honey". In 1903, they, with their 3 sons, Mike, Andrew and John gladly stepped off the ship on to Canadian soil at Halifax. Following a long and arduous train journey to Strathcona they were welcomed by Sam's brother. After spending nearly a year on the brother's farm in the Rabbit Hill area, Sam settled on a homestead 3 miles west of what is now called Glen Park.

Their first home was a 14 x 16 foot log and sod covered cabin. Shortly after the house was built Sam set out to find a job. He left his family with 1 cow, 100 lbs. of low grade flour, a couple of bushels of potatoes and small amounts of salt, sugar and tea. (It might be of interest to modern day readers to know that the peels of these potatoes were planted in the spring and yielded a harvest of about 12 bushels of potatoes).

Just when their lot seemed to be improving and the



Mike and Anastasia Paholko. 65th Wedding Anniversary and their children.

family was in the process of cutting logs for a new and better home, tragedy struck in 1905, when Sam was accidently killed by falling timber.

At the tender age of 16, Mike had to go to work for local farmers to earn a livelihood for his mother and 2 younger brothers. That fall, having turned 17, and in need of an income, he trudged on foot the 50 miles to Strathcona to seek employment with the CPR. Speaking only Ukrainian, he found it necessary to have others interpret his wish for a job to the English-speaking employment personnel. Despite this handicap he was fortunate to be hired by the CPR to work on a construction crew. His work was interrupted intermittently by the long trek home with provisions which he had purchased in Leduc.

Mike has related many anecdotes about the trials and tribulations faced during those first years following his father's death. Mike and his mother did all that could humanly be done for survival. When, despite their efforts, survival seemed impossible they found that God in whom they trusted provided for their needs.

Mike recalls one such occasion. With the approach of the winter following his father's death, it appeared that the family would not have enough food to survive. He tells of how his mother gathered the family together to pray that they might be spared until spring. He remembers vividly how the next bitterly cold morning he opened the door to find a number of nearly frozen geese huddled against the house. They were easily chased into the house. Needless to say, they contributed significantly to the family's food supply for that winter.

On August 17, 1910 Mike Paholko married Anastasia, born in 1890 to Maxim and Anna (Koziak) Staroshelsky in the village of Lozi, also the Yaroslav district of Austria. The newly-weds lived for 2 years with Mike's mother, after which they purchased their

own farm of virgin forest. Land clearing was done by hard labor with pick and grub axe. This was strenuous summertime work from sunrise to sunset. During the winter Mike cut railroad ties to earn the money so badly needed for their daily living.

The first machinery they had to work the land with was a walking plow to which 2 horses were hitched. The seeding was done by hand while the reaping was done with the aid of a sickle. Then came the gang plow which plowed 2 furrows; then a drill; then a disc; etc. No doubt the family felt that they had really arrived when in the late 1920s they purchased a tractor (this, incidently was the first tractor owned in the community). The tractor, called a "Titan" had some unique features such as a barrel at the top of the tractor rather than a radiator.

Prior to the establishment of Thorsby, people to the west of the Paholkos all found it necessary to travel to Kavanagh and Leduc to buy and sell goods and services. This meant that much traffic passed the Paholko farmstead. Numerous travellers learned of the hospitality and generosity of Mike and Anastasia. Thus, their home became a stopping place for many a weary traveller. While the horses were rested and watered the people were also treated hospitably. Despite the fact that many of their guests could not speak Ukrainian, somehow communication occurred. Many were the "guests" learned to appreciate the intent of Anastasia's efforts at English when they heard her repeat, "eat, eat, eat good!"

Not only was Anastasia known for her hospitality and cooking, but also she served as midwife for many of the women in the neighborhood as doctors and hospitals were too far away to be of help in child bearing.

Because Mike was a fairly skilled carpenter and blacksmith he was often called upon to assist his neighbors when these skills were required. He also developed a hobby of repairing clocks and watches. To this day he can be found tinkering with watches just for the satisfaction of "making them go".

In 1920, Mike with the help of Peter Shymansky, Nicholas Harrish, and Andrew Paholko built the Holy Trinity Russo Orthodox Church near Thorsby, commonly referred to as "the Church by Paholko". This church is an active parish to this date. Mike dedicated many years of his life to the church as founder, builder, treasurer and altar attendant until 1952, when he and Anastasia retired to their present home in the village of Thorsby.

In August, 1975 several hundred friends and relatives met to honour Michael and Anastasia Paholko on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They received congratulations from Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Lougheed. At this joyous occasion toasts testifying to their life of love, labor, sacrifice, achievements and dedication were made.

Mike and Anastasia raised a family of 5 daughters and 2 sons: Stella and her husband Nick Zingle, live in

Thorsby; Nicholas married Mary Podrutsky and they live in South Edmonton; Alice and her husband Bill Adamic, live in Edmonton; Steve married Olga Chrunyk and they live near Thorsby; Effie and her husband John Symyrozum, live in Vegreville; Mary and her husband Steve Lis, live in Edmonton. Their eldest daughter Ann died in her 29th year of life. To date they also have 14 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

When Mike and Anastasia left Europe they dreamed of a better lot for themselves and their children. Now, as they scan the accomplishments of their family they see among their offspring — farmers, businessmen, teachers, professors, pharmacists, electronic technicians, salespersons, bankers. mechanics and an artist. Being of peasant ancestry they are well aware that if they had remained in the Ukraine they and their children and their children's children would in all likelihood have been unable to change their status. As they look back over their past they realize that the price they paid was great indeed; but as they look to the future and the lives and accomplishments of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren they are aware that they have realized their dreams and ambitions. They accepted the challenge of pioneer life and in their own words, "It was more than worth it!"

GARY AND SYLVIA PAUL

by Sylvia

Gary and Sylvia Paul were married in July of 1971 and after 2 years of living in Edmonton, they decided to move back into the area where they had both been



Gary, Sylvia, Paul with children Timmi and Shannon, 1976.

raised, Gary being from the Centre Lodge district and Sylvia from the Weed Creek area.

In Aug., 1973 they had the opportunity to buy the dairy farm owned by her parents, Leo and Emily Sharko. The farm is located a half mile east of the former Weed Creek school site.

Prior to buying the farm, Gary was employed by Kenting Oilfield Services in Edmonton and Sylvia taught school at the Thorsby Junior-Senior High School. They are now both actively engaged in the dairy business.

Gary and Sylvia have 2 children, Timothy Dean and Shannon Jolene were born in Aprl. 1974 and Oct. 1975.

THE TED POWLIK FAMILY

Ted, born December 6, 1933, is the second son of Andrew and Katherine Powlik, who lived in the Thorsby district all of their lives. He attended school in Weed Creek.

Sophie, born July 9, 1940 is the daughter of Michael and Anna Kulhovenia, who moved to the Thorsby area in 1946. She attended school in Weed Creek and Thorsby, graduating in 1959.

Ted and Sophie were married on October 10, 1959 and began their married life in the village of Thorsby, where he was an employee of Thorsby Transport and she was a teller at the Bank of Montreal.

On December 19, 1961 they were blessed with the birth of their first son, Darcy and on August 13, 1965 their second son, Gregory.

On July 8, 1966 Ted's father, Andrew Powlik passed away. On October 4, 1966 the Ted Powlik family moved on the home place and took over farming. In addition to farming, Ted purchased a gravel truck with which he hauled gravel to various places, most recently for the County of Leduc, until September 1978 when he sold the truck. He is now a school bus owner-operator covering a route southeast of Thorsby. He purchased the school bus from Mr.

Arnold Kisser upon his retirement.



Ted Powlik family. L. to R. — Darcey, Greg, Sophie and Ted (parents).

Presently the whole family helps maintain the farm. Darcy is in grade 12 and will be graduating this school term and Gregory is in grade 8 at the Thorsby High School.

THE SCHUREK STORY

as told by Margaret Schurek to Shirley Radowits

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Schurek had a family of 4 sons and one daughter: Mike, Jacob (Jack), William, John (born May 8, 1879), and Teresa. The family lived in Krakow, Poland.

In 1903, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Schurek and their 2 youngest sons, Mike and Jacob (Jack), emigrated to Canada. In 1905, another son, William, also left Poland and came to Canada.

In 1909, a fourth son, John, (30 years of age at the time), and his wife, Mary, (nee Koputch-26 years of age) and their 2 children, Katie and John Jr. (Jack) came. John's sister, Teresa, made the journey with them. They moved in with William on the SW 34-48-1 W5, until John purchased a quarter (NE 10-49-1 W5). John and Mary Schurek had 3 more children: 2 sons (Albert and Mike) and a daughter (Mary). In 1917, they sold the farm to Mr. Steve Pasula for \$600.00 and moved to Edmonton (Strathcona) where John found work in the coal mines. Two more children (Rudolph



John and Mary Shurek, late 1930's.



Stanley and Frances Schurek (Floria)

and Frances) were born to them. During this time the Schureks bought the quarter of land SW 34-48-1 W5 from John's brother, William, and moved back on to the farm in 1922. Two more sons (Stanley and Sam) completed the family.

In 1926, the Schurek family moved onto an adjoining quarter NW 34-48-1 W5 which they had bought earlier (for taxes) and paid \$160.00. They had a house built on this land. Mr. Mike Mudry was the carpenter.

Through the years the Schurek family worked on the farm and also worked for neighbors helping with harvests and carpentry. All of the boys were handy as carpenters and in later years carried on with this as their trade.

Mrs. Mary Schurek passed away on June 10, 1943, at the age of 60. Her husband, John, passed away on Jan. 14, 1956 just before his 77th birthday. Their daughter Katie (Paskowski) passed away in 1960.

The 8 surviving children all reside in Edmonton with the exception of John Jr. (Jack) who is retired in Camrose and Sam who farms at Thorsby and is employed as a carpenter during his spare time.

Sam married Margaret Hum on July 12, 1954. He continued farming, taking over the land when his dad passed away.

On March 14, 1958 Sam and Margaret were blessed with a son, Rick. He grew up enjoying the outdoor farm life and being a "helper" to his dad.

In 1959 Sam found employment at the International Airport at Nisku. He drove to his work until 1961 when he quit his job to farm full time.

A daughter Katherine (Kathy) was welcomed to the Schurek household on May 9, 1962. An active child from the time she was small, she too enjoyed the outdoors and her many pets.

In 1964, Rick began his schooling in Thorsby and was fortunate to have bus service at his gateway with Mr. John Hier as his bus driver for the first year.

Kathy started school in 1968. She and her brother rode on Mr. Kisser's bus. Rick enjoyed school very much and graduated from Thorsby High School in 1976. After attending N.A.I.T. for 1 year and completing a course in millwork and carpentry, he is



1977: Rick, Margaret, Sam, Kathy Shurek.

employed at Woodcrest Cabinet Shop. Kathy is attending Senior High School at Thorsby.

In 1975, Sam and Margaret decided to try a less demanding way of life. They quit milking cows and chose to grain farm and raise beef cattle. Sam found employment with a building contractor in Leduc. He continues to carpenter and farm.

The Schureks are enjoying farm life and wish their children happiness and fulfillment in the future.

HISTORY OF LEO AND EMILY SHARKO

Leo was born and raised west of Nisku where he took his schooling. In the fall of 1944 he and his



Leo Sharko and brother Manuel, 1928. This was the means of transportation then "Horses and Democrat".



Sawing logs, 1939. Leo Sharko, 2nd from right.

parents, George and Mary Sharko, moved to the Calmar district. Emily, daughter of Theodore and Annie Yanish, was born and raised in the Calmar district. In 1945, Leo and Emily were married and farmed southwest of town for 7 years, where their 2 older children, Sylvia and Leona were born. As the school was far away they sold their farm and moved to the Thorsby district in 1952. They bought the Bill

Zingle farm, half a mile east of Weed Creek School. After a few years the school was closed down and the children were bussed to Thorsby. Later a third daughter, Rosie, was born. Sylvia and Leona both graduated from Thorsby school. Sylvia, the oldest, trained as a teacher at the University of Alberta, and taught school in Breton and Thorsby. She married Gary Paul (1971) and they have two children, Timothy and Shannon. Leona trained as a stenographer in college and got into the banking business. Leona married Lorne Huber (1970) and they reside in Devon where Lorne owns a business. They also have 2 children. Ronald and Dawn.

Leo and Emily were in mixed farming and then switched mainly to the dairy cattle business. Besides farming Leo worked for the Alberta Liquor Control Board in Thorsby on temporary staff for 6 years, and Emily was manageress at the Thorsby Auction Mart

coffee shop for 6 years.

After having ups and downs in farming for 21 years in the Thorsby area, they sold the farm to Sylvia and son-in-law Gary in 1973. They moved to Wetaskiwin with their youngest daughter Rosie Lynn, who went to high school there and graduated in 1976. She worked for a year in Edmonton and in 1977 she took a 4 month tour of Europe and Russia, visiting 21 countries, which she enjoyed very much. At present she is the Public



Leo and Emily's 25th Anniversary with family. Rosie, Leona, Sylvia.

Relations Assistant with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Rosie and Daniel Will were married in Dec. 1978 and went on a cruise for their honeymoon.

Since moving to Wetaskiwin, Leo and Emily have travelled extensively throughout Canada and the U.S. At present Emily is working as a cashier at the MacLeod's store in Wetaskiwin. Leo is retired and has many hobbies such as music, photography and he enjoys bowling as a sport.

Although both Leo and Emily, are farm people at heart, they have enjoyed the 5 years in Wetaskiwin

and have no regrets regarding the move.

THROUGH THE EYES OF A TWELVE YEAR OLD

by William Stashko (translated by John Keaschuk)

At about the beginning of the 20th century there was considerable interest in our village in immigration to Canada. Letters arriving from families already in Canada informed us that this was a land of good prospects. My parents at first were rather skeptical if it really was possible that those families could acquire property and get established in just a few years in Canada. However they reasoned, that since some were relatives they certainly would not want to mislead us.

I was 12 years old in the spring of 1903 when my parents, Peter and Josephine Stashko, sold all their property in the village of Uhryn, and with a family of three children, a younger brother and sister and me, set out on a journey to Canada. For me travelling in Europe was very interesting, as through the window of the train I saw the places that I heard about from conversations of grown-ups. When we arrived in the port city of Hamburg and boarded the ship, it was my first experience of seeing many different and strange people from many places of the world. The part of the journey by ship I choose not to recall, as it did not agree with me.

When we arrived safely on the shores of the "new world", our first impressions of Canada were happiness. As we travelled through Quebec, we were delighted in seeing fruit trees in blossom and great stretches of green meadows. We marvelled at how fields were divided, not as in the old country, but by stone walls. From the train we also observed how industrious the people were as they picked stones to build stone walls that weaved like snakes across the land.

I could not describe areas we passed during the night but when I looked out the window in the morning, I noticed an entirely different scene. I could not see any more orchards or green meadows but



William Stashko in the 1920's.

only unpopulated wilderness. It was the early part of the month of May, but in the bush we could still see piles of snow, the lakes were covered with ice and between the lakes were stones and mountains of rocks. The sight of the territory changed the outlook of many immigrants from optimism to disappointment and regret. An opinion was forming that their friends had deceived them by falsely praising Canada. They now were sorry they were so gullible to believe them. Some women wept. A few, who apparently remained undiscouraged reasoned, that what will be for others will be for them.

Our train arrived in Winnipeg on May 3rd and we stayed two days. On the third an announcement was made that those who had friends in Winnipeg should remain in Winnipeg. About half left our group. The rest went on to Strathcona, (now S. Edmonton). We arrived in Strathcona in the evening of May 8th. A guide was waiting to lead us to the immigration building. He told us, "Your train travel ends here. You will be staying for a few days. While you rest up, the husbands will go with a guide to pick out places for temporary residences. In three days I will send out a suitable man who will guide you to pick your homesteads".

The guide for our group was a German who spoke broken Ukrainian. He instructed us to take sufficient food and go by train to Leduc. From Leduc we walked west for over twenty six miles to the 5th Meridian. After a rest, the guide took out a map and checked a surveyor's stake. He said the location they were at was section 36 and available for homesteads. My father, being the first of the group to decide, chose N.W. 36-48-1 W5 and later the N.E. 36-48-1 W5. The other half of the section was taken by William Yawney and John Zingle.

We could not afford to move to the homestead the same year. My father worked for a farmer during harvest and threshing to earn some money, which enabled us to occupy our farm in 1904. On the homestead three more brothers and two sisters were born.

After surviving the process of an immigrant adapting to a Canadian way of life and growing to manhood, I married Anne Terlesky on November 7, 1924 and we started a pioneer life independent of our parents. Our first home was on the N.E. 27-48-1 W5 which we shared with my brother, John. We lived here for about 3 years, then we sold this quarter to Mr. Schram and moved to the S.W. 27-48-1 W5 which we bought from my brother Mike. It had a two-room log house with an upstairs, which was our home for over 20 years.

We had 3 horses and used a walking plow to do our ploughing. Over the years, with the help of my wife, we grubbed trees and cleared a few acres of land at a time. Most of our work was done by hand, like cutting hay with the scythe, gathering it into small piles by hand and then hauling it with a hay rack to the stack.



Wm. Stasko's 80th birthday, June 1971 and Mrs. Annie Stashko. Back row — son Peter, Daughter Natalie, son Woldymer.

Life in our home was typical of all pioneer families in the neighborhood. Lots of hard work and very little pay. We kept a few cows, some chickens and a few hogs. Throughout the summer, my wife would pick berries that were in season and preserve them for winter. We always had a large garden and during the winter would have our own pork.

A family of four children were born in our home between the years 1926 and 1932. Three sons and one daughter, namely — Peter, Woldymer, Bohdan and Natalie. Bohdan died in infancy. The children attended Weed Creek School. Since they had almost 4 miles to school, they would often take a short cut through our farm, across a corner of Dool's farm and through Schram's farm coming out on Schram's yard before getting back on the road. They would have to cross 2 creeks, which was dangerous during spring and the rainy seasons, when the creeks would overflow.

To add to our income, I often went to Edmonton to do carpenter work for my brother Mike. Somehow, we managed to get through the years and at least have a more comfortable life. The children married and settled down to make their own homes as follows: Peter married Elsie Chrunik. They live in Grande Prairie and have 5 children, namely — Russell, Douglas, Wendy, Terry and Darrell. Woldymer married Annie Fryk. They live in Calgary and have 2 children; Pearl and Theresa. Both their girls are now married. Natalie married Roy Knull. They live near me and have 2 children, Ricky and Karen.

In November 1974, we celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary, a memorable occasion which we really enjoyed. During 1975, we decided to sell our farm to our son, Peter, (who may some day decide to retire on it) but we continued to live on the farm enjoying the rural life. Our now comfortable life, took a serious setback when my wife became suddenly ill and passed away in June 1977. However, I remain, to reside on the farm as it provides a quiet relaxed atmosphere to reminisce about the past.



Martin Stellmaker, Shirley his daughter-in-law and Newton Stellmaker, his oldest son.



Cougar shot by Vernon Stellmaker on the farm that is now owned by Steve Pichonsky. Cougar was 6 ft. 3 in. from tip to tip. Shot in the mid 1930's.



Picture is of congregation of Weed Creek Union Church Sunday School classes in 1928. Martin Stellmaker S.S. superintendent at right and Mrs. Stellmaker and their two sons Newton and Vernon in front.

ANTON VASILIAUSKAS

submitted by Adele Bendoritis

Anton arrived in Canada in 1928 from Lithuania. He moved to western Canada where he worked as a common laborer among farmers in the Leduc and Calmar areas.



Anton Vasiliauskas.

In the late 1930s he rented a quarter section of land from the late Herbert Johnson. After a number of years he purchased a quarter of his own (N.E. 25-1-48-W5). The land was poor but Anton worked very hard and improved it as much as possible. He built a beautiful farmstead. In 1973 he retired to Thorsby where he had purchased a house on the south end of Hankin St. He passed away Nov. 16, 1975 having never married and no relatives in Canada. All during his life he had an excellent relationship with his friends and neighbors.

GUSTAVE (GUS) VATH

by wife Clara Vath

Gus Vath was born in LeCentre, Minnesota in 1881. He learned the carpenter trade in his early years. In 1911 he went west with 3 brothers and 2 sisters, to take up a homestead in the Chester, Montana area.

I, Clara Myers, came from a large city in Germany to the Unted States and was a teacher. I eventually got a teaching position near the Vath homestead and met up with Gus, who was still single. We were married in 1917.

Gus tried farming for 12 years in Montana, but it was so dry and we had crop failures year after year. In May, 1923 Gus went to Weed Creek, Alberta where his 2 brothers, Ed and Herb, had moved the previous year.

I and the 2 girls, Vivian and Helen, stayed in Montana until Gus built a 1 ½-story shack on the C.P.R. land SW 23-48-1-W5. We arrived in July, 1923 and I was disappointed in what I saw as a home. We managed to make a living with Gus doing carpenter work in Edmonton.

With my experience as a teacher, I applied for the teaching position at the Weed Creek School for the fall term, which I got. With the combined wages of the two of us, we did fair.

That first spring was cold and wet. So was our

shack, which was not insulated. Our daughter, Helen, got double pneumonia. The nearest doctor was in Leduc, which had to be travelled by horse and buggy. That meant a long delay in medication. We believed in Faith Healing so a few other believers were called in for an all night virgil. By morning, she showed signs of improvement, which strengthened our faith in God.

The spring of 1924 was wet with all the melting snow. It eventually dried and a new hazard appeared on the scene in the form of a bush fire. Our nearby neighbors helped me fight the fire, as Gus was away at the time. It was a narrow escape. We came close to losing all our possessions. When this ordeal was over, I decided there was a better life than being a pioneer for the second time in my life. My decision was to go back to the U.S. at the end of the school term.

Around the 14th of July, I packed up the clothes for our 2 daughters and myself and went to Great Falls. Gus followed 2 months later after selling what little possessions we had accumulated.

Our son Raymond, was born in 1931. All the 3 children got a college education.

Vivian married Cecil Sandford. They have 5 children who are all married now. Vivian went to work for the J.C. Penny Company and has worked there for 15 years.

Helen became a teacher. She married Oliver Lager. They have 2 children, a boy and a girl, who are both married. Oliver died in 1969. Helen remarried in 1972 to James Konyha. He is an employee of the Boeing Co. in Tehran, Iran and Helen is a councillor in the American High School there.

Our son, Raymond, is a medical doctor in Seattle. He married JoAnn Spradley. They have 3 children - 2 girls and a boy.

Gus and I sold our home in Great Falls in 1961 and moved to Bellevue, Washington. In 1966, Gus died. I live in an apartment in Bellevue.



The three Vath brothers that immigrated to Canada in 1922 - 23. L. to R.
— Ed, Gus, and Herb. Picture taken July, 1938.

MARVIN AND GEORGINA WAGAR FAMILY

Marvin was born on October 5, 1943 in Thorsby, the oldest son of Claude and Rose Wagar. Georgina was born on July 29, 1946 in Edmonton, the youngest daughter of Mike and Anna Kulhovenia.

Marvin atended Springhill and Pipestone schools and Georgina attended Weed Creek and Thorsby schools.



Marvin and Georgina Wagar.

On August 28, 1964 they were married in the Russian Greek Orthodox Church of Thorsby. They resided in Edmonton for eleven years, where a son, Shawn was born on July 20, 1966. In 1975 they moved to their farm, 2 miles south and 1 mile east of Thorsby. Their new house is on the site of the old Weed Creek school. Here on August 25, 1976 a daughter, Shawna was born.

ADOLPH WAGEMAN

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Wageman lived in the city of Edmonton at the time of their marriage. They then moved to Wetaskiwin and later to Glen Park, in 1928. Mr. Wageman was the cheese maker in the Glen Park Cheese Factory which was located on the Charles Weiting farm, at Glen Park. He was cheese

maker there for 2 years, then moved into Edmonton. They later purchased the N.W. 23-48-1 W5 from Charles Dehlendorf. They farmed this quarter until 1971, when they sold it to their son, Neil.

At the time that Mr. Wageman operated the cheese factory, there were about 30 to 40 farmers shipping milk to it. Some days he would start taking milk at 6 o'clock in the morning and work until 7 o'clock in the evenings. All the milk was mixed by hand. He did all the book work and his wife would make out the cheques to the farmers for



Cheese Factory House, residence of the Wagemans.



Mr. Wageman in his 1927 Ford.



Glen Park Cheese Factory



their milk. The wages were about \$125 a month in the winter and \$140 in the summer.

In the 3 years 1927, 1928 and 1929 he won \$600 for his entries of cheese at fairs. In 1929 he sent a cheese into the fair at Victoria and Vancouver and it was rated the 1st prize, but as he was from out of the province he was not given the ribbon or the cash prize.

Their daughter Geraldine was born in Edmonton and received her education in Weed Creek and Thorsby. She then trained in the Royal Alex Hospital and became a nurse. She later became a stewardess, where she met her future husband, Rik Malkin. They are now living in Vancouver and have two boys.

Their son, Neil was born in the Thorsby Hospital, just north of Thorsby. Neil worked for the Kolesar Garage in Thorsby for 4 years and in 1960 he married Marlene Zutz of Stony Plain. They purchased the home quarter in 1971 and are now residing there. They have 3 children: Kimberley, Kodi and James.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Wageman are now retired and are residing in the village of Thorsby.

YAWNEY — WILLIAM AND ANNA

written by granddaughter Louise (Faraschuk) Pignanelli

William and Anna were both from the village of Cholodna, Ukraine. Grandpa married Anna Stepyk in 1897 and two years later with one daughter, Mary, they purchased a one-way ticket on a ship and sailed to Canada. They continued on their journey by train, arriving at Leduc in the early spring of 1899. They were met by the George Wesolowsky family of Ellerslie and moved into a little log cabin next to them on the farm.

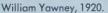
My mother, Antonia, was born in this log cabin in December 1900. She married Michael Faraschuk in 1918 and had two children, Nick and myself.

Another daughter, Pauline, was born in 1902. She married John Kupka and lived near Pigeon Lake. A son, Steve (Kupka) Hotchkiss resides in Hinton and a daughter, Mrs. Mike (Millie) Gerula lives in Calgary. Pauline passed away in 1929.

The eldest son, Metro, was born in 1905. He married Annie Nimko and lived on a farm across the road from the Weed Creek School for many years. In 1943 they moved to Colinton, Alberta where my uncle farmed and owned a service station. They are presently retired and continue to make their home in Colinton.

In 1906 my grandparents took a homestead two miles east and three miles south of Thorsby. (36-48-1-W5). This was next to the John and Mary Zingle homestead. Grandpa Yawney and Mary were brother and sister. As the Zingle's and Yawney's each had one horse, they often combined them as a team to







John Yawney and sister Antonia Faraschuk. Photo taken 1920.



L. to R. — Tillie Suchodoski, Matt Suchodolski, Ann Karbonik, John Yawney and Antonia Faraschuk, 1933.

plow and disc both farms.

Then came the seeding. Grandpa, with a small sack filled with grain tied to his waist, would broadcast the seed by hand. It didn't take long to prepare and seed the field - as during the first two years only one acre had been cleared for planting. To cut the grain, Grandpa used a sickle, a cutting tool consisting of a crescent-shaped blade with a short handle. Grandma and the older daughters, Mary and Antonia would follow, binding the grain into sheaves using a rope made of braided straw, as twine was too expensive. The bundles were then set aside to dry. When dried they were set on sacks and a flail consisting of a free-swinging stick tied to the end of another stick was used to thresh the wheat and oats. The grain was then placed on a smal screen and tossed in the air for the wind to separate the chaff.

During the first few years, the grain was not sold, but saved for seed and the balance used for cattle feed and chickens. Very little monetary value would have been gained as in 1906 wheat sold at 66¢ and oats at 32¢ per bushel.

John, the youngest son, was born on the homestead in 1909. He married Stella Kuzio and they have three children. A son George and daughter-in-law Phyllis live in Thorsby. A daughter Louise and son-in-law Mike Meinczinger are in Alsike and

another daughter Madelaine recently married Randall Devries.

When the Yawneys settled on the homestead they often had uninvited guests. Indians would drop in from time to time. A cross-country road from the Paholko farm went though my grandparents farm and on to Pigeon Lake. This was named the "Indian Road".

It was used mainly by Indians going to the lake to fish. The children feared the Indians as they were told many stories of white people being scalped. The Indians travelled as a family in covered wagons carrying all their possessions. Tubs, pails and lanterns would be hanging outside the wagon. They stopped at the Yawney farm asking for milk, potatoes and eggs, by using sign language. Of course Grandpa didn't ask for payment as he didn't want to antagonize them. Antonia recalls these incidents very vividly. The Indians would then set up camp a few yards from the house and spend the night by the bonfire cooking their food.

The eldest daughter, Mary, married Nick Karbonik of Calmar. They had fifteen children. One of the daughters, Mrs. Salvatore (Evelyn) Acampora and husband managed the Thorsby Hotel Cafe from 1949 to 1963. They presently live in Edmonton and own the Tita's Italian Restaurant at 10032 - 105th Street. The Acampora's daughters Jo-Anne and Mrs. Richard (Regina) Vivone and son-in-law also reside in Edmonton. Mary Karbonik passed away in Dec. 1945.

In the early 1900's Grandpa would hitch his horse to a wagon and travel 18 miles to the nearest town of Leduc for supplies. An overnight stay was often necessary to rest the horse. When the family meat supply ran low, it was often supplemented by the many wild rabbits in the area.

The youngest daughter, Tillie, was born in 1911 and married Matt Suchodolski in 1931. They lived on a farm south of Calmar until their retirement in 1971, then moved to Edmonton. They have one daughter Alice married to George Mucha and three grandchildren who all live in Edmonton.

Anna Yawney passed away in 1914. Later Grandpa remarried and they had 3 children, Mrs. John (Frances) Osmak of Edmonton, Mrs. Nick (Millie) Sekora of Calmar, and one son Mike who remains on the original homestead. Grandpa, William Yawney, passed away April 8, 1924.

BILL AND ANNE ZINGLE STORY

by Eva Zingle

Bill, son of John and Mary Zingle, married Anne Worobo of Monitor in Nov. 1925, and they made their home with Bill's parents.

In 1926, after many endless days of clearing land, Bill and Anne were able to own a $\frac{1}{2}$ section of land. They moved on to the SE 1-49-1-W5.

Bill, being somewhat of an adventurer, decided to try a new way of life. In 1927 he and his wife Anne



Bill and Anne Zingle in front of his parents home in 1926.



Their four children: Jim, Allan, Del and Irene, in front of their parents first home near Weed Creek School.

rented their farm to Ignat Harrish for 3 years, and moved to Leduc where Bill's older brother William operated a store. In 1928 they moved to Calmar and Bill managed his own store. While in Calmar they started their family. In 1929 their first son James (Jim) was born. In 1930 they sold their store to Melvin Anderson and returned to their farmland at Thorsby to resume farming.

More children blessed their happy home when two sons were born to them, Allan in 1930, and Delourice (Del) in 1934. Two years later, a daughter Irene was a welcome addition to the family. Her brother Glenn, born in 1941, completed the family circle.

All the children attended Weed Creek School. Bill and Anne continued to farm and make improvements, constructing a new house in 1941. The Zingles in 1952, sold their farm to Leo and Emily Sharko, and moved to Edmonton. They lived in several districts: Park Allan, Forest Heights, and Hardisty district in Edmonton before they had the desire to go back to the land. They sold their home in Hardisty and purchased an acreage in the Ardrossan area. There Bill and Anne operated a very productive chicken farm, selling eggs to various businesses in Edmonton. In 1968 Bill was forced to sell due to poor health.

The now-retired Zingles were looking for somewhere that they might like to spend their "golden years." Their first winter was spent in Vancouver. The following spring they purchased property in Kelowna, B.C. and resided there until Oct., 1970 when Bill passed away. His wife, Anne, now makes her home in Edmonton.

In 1973 the original Zingle farm which they sold to Leo Sharko, changed hands once more, the new owners being Sylvia and Gary Paul.

The Zingle family have all married.

Jim and Eva (nee Kuzio of Thorsby) were married in 1953, and reside in Edmonton. They have 3 children, Gary, Randy and Brenda. Gary (born 1955) is now employed at Mainland Glass; Randy (born 1957) works at Millwoods Automotives; and Brenda (born 1960) graduated from school in 1978 and is attending N.A.I.T. studying Marketing Management.

Allan and Ann (nee Ursylak of Hairy Hill) were married in 1953, and reside in Calgary. They have 2 children: Patricia born in 1955, and Bradley born in 1962

Del and Marjorie (nee Hutton of North Battleford, Sask.) were married in 1955, and now reside in Calgary.

Clarence Berlin of White Fox, Sask. married Irene in 1954 and now reside in Flatbush, Alberta. They have 3 children; Teresa born in 1954, Gwen born in 1956, and Vincent born in 1962.

Glenn and Caroline (nee Belzer of Edmonton) were married in 1960. They now reside in Delta, B.C. They have 4 children; Michael born in 1960, Debra born in 1962, Robert born in 1963, and Catherine born in 1964.

Although the miles may separate the Zingle clan, the family bonds are evident.



The Bill Zingle family, 1950. L. to R. — Bill, Anne, Irene, Del, Jim, Allan, Glenn.

ONE OF THORSBY'S FIRST PIONEER BUSINESSMEN

Fred Zingel was born to John and Mary Zingel on Feb. 17, 1891, at Landuiau Kaloridainy, Czortkow, Galatia, Austria, (Poland). He came to Canada at the age of 8 in 1900, with his parents, one brother, William, and 2 sisters, Mary and Antonia.

He did not have any formal education, but received his education through practical experience of working, mingling and socializing with people of different races and customs, thus giving him a broad outlook on life and people. Fred left home at the early age of 16 to work out. He tried his hand as a cowboy and operated a steam threshing outfit. He worked in coal mines around Lethbridge and Revelstoke and also for the C.P.R. In the early days of Edmonton (1909-1913), he helped build the High Level Bridge.

Mr. Zingel enlisted in the First World War in 1917 and was stationed in Calgary. During that time he met the Prince of Wales who had a ranch near High River, Alberta. The Prince said, "I'm the Prince of Wales," and Fred said "And I'm the son of a King." In January, 1918, Fred married Annie Kohut of Rabbit Hill, Alberta. To this union 4 children were born: Millie, Dan and 2 sons who died in infancy.

With money saved from working out, they bought a farm in the Elnora district. In 1924, due to dry weather and crop failures, the Zingel's sold out and paid their debts. With 25¢ in their pocket (for postage stamps), a team of horses and a democrat, they moved to Buford, His father made the down payment on the land at Weed Creek where they settled.

Hospitality in the '20's was genuine and given to a friend and stranger. The Zingel's farm was known as a "STOPPING PLACE" for lumbermen hauling lumber from the Warburg and Breton sawmills to sell in Kavanagh and Millet. Fred attended to the teams and Annie served meals to the men. The living room floor was often laid wall to wall with men sleeping in their blankets.

In the middle '20's, Ed Brosman started a Blacksmith Shop on Fred's land across the road from Weed Creek School. Fred took an interest in the community, having served on the school board as well as being councillor for the municipality. The Weed Creek schoolteacher, Miss Margaret Dunnington of Namao, boarded with the Zingels for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years.

In 1927, Mr. Zingel's brother, Stephen, built a General Store near the Blacksmith Shop. Later when Stephen gave up the store, Fred took over, adding the International Implements and McCormick Tractors to the business. He also had a trucking business hauling cream, eggs, hogs and cattle to Edmonton and bringing back supplies.

He owned a Chevrolet touring car, which was useful when as a result of Cupid's darts, a young couple decided to get married and had no other way



Fred and Mary Zingel.



Dan and Millie Zingel.



Fred Zingel's Store and house.



Ed Brosman's blacksmith shop at Weed Creek, 1928.

of getting to Edmonton to have the knot tied.

Fred was also called upon when the sick needed to see the nearest doctor in Edmonton (a 45 mile drive) and later to Leduc. This was not necessarily a money-making service. When dynamite got too close to men blowing stumps, Fred was handy in administering first aid, before making the trip to the doctor. He was told he should have been a doctor.

When all seemed to be going well, sorrow came with the death of his beloved wife, Annie, on March 17, 1929, leaving him with 2 motherless children. Fred continued in business with the "hired" help of Dan Melnychuk and Cora Dedio, Millie and Dan.

Mr. Zingel needed a helpmate, so he married Mary Werstiuk of Glendon, in June, 1929. To that union 5 children were born, 4 boys and 1 girl; Henry, Florian, Cornelius, Alvina and Lawrence. Early in the 1930's the Zingels moved their store and house $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Thorsby. They managed the move themselves with tractors and skids, wearing out more than one set of skids. Thus he became one of the first Pioneer Businessmen in the new Thorsby. Operating a store during the "Hungry Thirties", in the days of "Credit Buying", Fred literally supported some of the people in the district, when collecting was difficult, if not impossible.

He continued to lend a helping hand. His car services were available when Thorsby's first doctor, Doctor Hankin, needed to make sick calls in the country. He was also handy as a barber and many a head got trimmed.

In 1939, the Zingels decided to move to their C.P.R. land south of Thorsby. They cleared the land, built their home and continued to farm until, due to failing health, Fred was unable to farm. By then the boys, Henry and Cornelius, were able to take over and are still farming there.

Mr. Zingel enjoyed reading, spending many hours doing so during his illness. He received comfort and strength from studying his well-worn Bible. His health continued to decline until his death on December 31, 1954, in his 64th year.

His widow, Mary, remains on the farm with her sons, Henry and Cornelius, living in the new home they built in 1976. Mary has been a hard worker all her life. Her "Special Gift" was hospitality. Many a neighbor, young and old, relative and stranger found a hearty welcome. They were seated to a "well loaded" table and often heard her say, "Eat, people, eat."

Today, Fred Zingel's descendants are 7 children, 10 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. The eldest, Millie, is married to Wesley Glassford, semi-retired farmer and businessman, living in Unity, Saskatchewan. They had 4 children. Lawrence married June Lochart of Fredricton, N.B. and farms in Adanac, Saskatchewan. They have 2 children: Holly and David. Millie's second son, Arnold, married Sandra Scarrow of Weyburn, Saskatchewan. They farm at Adanac and have 1 daughter, Marylee. Harold was born in August, 1945 and died when 10

days old. Elaine, the only daughter, resides in Calgary, working the the City Library.

Fred's eldest son, Daniel, is married to Betty Rogers. He lives in Edmonton and works in construction. He has 2 step-children; Butch of Germany and Susan of Edmonton, also 1 grandchild.

Henry and Cornelius live on the family farm at

Thorsby.

Florian married Beth Proudlove of Winnipeg. He also lives in Edmonton and is employed in construction. They have 2 sons: Dean and Blair.

Alvina, married Don Holte of Bittern Lake, who is now operating a Texaco Service station in Edmonton. They have 2 children: Gerry and Karen.

Lawrence, a parts manager in a garage, married Marcelle McBain of Edmonton. They live in Rutland, B.C., and have 3 children: Laurie, Marla and Brian.

Fred Zingel enjoyed the simple things of life, nature and liked to travel. He was a kind, considerate man, devoted to his wife and family. He had a strong faith in God, was loyal to his church and lived his Christianity. Like the pioneers of his era, he left a rich heritage for us, his family, and friends to follow and the generations who come after us.

GEORGE ZINGLE FAMILY

by Verna Zingle Kuzio

On October 21, 1929 George Zingle and Alice Woroko were married in Monitor, Alberta. Alice's father Sam came to Canada from Russia and settled on a farm near Monitor. This was where Alice was born and attended school.

George was born in Thorsby and when he married, the family ran a country store in Calmar. Later the couple bought the Anderson store at Weed Creek. When the roof was destroyed during a hail storm, the business closed. Living quarters were established in these stores.

George then went carpentering with Nick Senetchko and Ralph Kabanuk and the family relocated in several homes. When the last family home was built one mile east and 2 3/4 miles south of Thorsby, land was cleared and farming begun, subsidized by clerking for auctioneers Charlie Plunkie and Earl Leeder. When the Thorsby Auction Mart was built by Leo Bruce, George Zingle was the clerk.

In 1958 the cattle and dairy equipment were sold and the chicken business enlarged with shipping hatching eggs to Edward's Hatchery in Edmonton as the main income.

Ill health forced George and Alice to retire to Thorsby in 1968. In 1972 George Zingle passed away in an Edmonton hospital.

Alice Zingle still reside at 5324 - 54 Ave. in the Village of Thorsby. Gardening is her speciality - her yard is growing proof!

There are three children. The eldest son Marvin married Gwen Adamic, Steve Adamic's eldest daughter, in 1956 and they make their home in Edmonton with their daughter Kellie Lisa and son Jeffrey Stephen. (See individual stories on second son Rodger and daughter Verna.)

THE SAGA OF NICK AND STELLA ZINGLE

by Stella Zingle

The Zingle's life story illustrates how they, as "new" pioneers, are no different in courage, resourcefulness and humor than were the first hardy souls who settled this area. Both Nick and Stella (nee Paholko) were born in the Thorsby district to families of homesteaders. Their love of the land destined them to establish their roots in the fertile land some $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast of Thorsby.

Nick was born into the John and Mary Zingle family sometime in 1908 (there is still disagreement among family members as to the exact date, however, the government records declare his birthdate to be Remembrance Day). Being second youngest in a family of 9, his knowledge of the family's earliest experiences in Canada is somewhat lacking.

Nick attended Weed Creek school. During his latter school years he was frequently called away to assist in his brother William's store, which was across the road from the school. Many residents in this area will recall that his was the first store in the area, having been established some 15 years prior to the founding of Thorsby. Nowadays we have community centers, restaurants, and other "hangouts" in which to congregate and socialize. In that era "Zingle's Corner" served not only as a trading center but also a recreational and social center.

When Nick was only 19 years of age both his father and mother passed away within a month of each other. Shortly thereafter he moved to the quarter of land willed to him by his parents. He continued to live there until his retirement 50 years later. It was a quarter of very fertile land across the road from his brother William's store. It was $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast of the site Thorsby was later situated on.

A year after Thorsby was founded, Nick, with the assistance of his friend Nick Bedry, began a "Chop Mill" for custom grinding of grain for farmers in the area. Price of this service was 5¢ per sack (about 100 lbs.)

In 1929 Nick purchased a brand new Chev Coupe for the grand sum of \$900.00. Obviously this new possession made him highly desirable among the young females of the area. Shortly after purchasing the car he began courting Stella Paholko, whom he married on Nov. 22, 1932. This union resulted in 1 son, Harvey, who is presently a professor at the University of Alberta. Harvey's wife Donna, and grandchildren Wade, Sheree and Randy complete the



Nick and Stella Zingle with their son Dr. Harvey Zingle B.Ed. M.Ed. Ph.D. who has been appointed chairman of the University of Albert Dept. of Educational Psychology.

family tree for the present.

Upon marriage Nick gave up his Thorsby "Chop Mill", and became a full-time farmer. This farming enterprise received a significant boost when Stella's parents presented her with a wedding gift of 5 cows, one sow with 10 piglets, 1 mare and 50 chickens.

In 1931, Nick entered into a new venture, which involved the purchase of a threshing machine. Hiring a crew at \$1.00 per day per man, he threshed for farmers in the area. Until 1952, each fall, Nick and his crew of 8 to 12 men spent approximately 30 days threshing for farmers in the Thorsby vicinity.

In the 1950's Nick and Stella became more and more involved in the selling of quality seed grain to farmers. This enterprise received boosts on a number of occasions when they received prizes for their seed grain at the Leduc County Fair. Their reputation as growers of quality seed was further enchanced in 1972 when their seed grains won them prizes at the Alberta Seed Fair Competition. The receipt of these prizes was especially pleasing to them as they weren't even aware that their grain was entered in the competition as it was Ben Grohn, manager of the Warburg Seed Cleaning Plant, who entered the grain on their behalf.

While Nick invested a momentous degree of his energy into his work and family life, he found time to serve his community and church in various ways. He served on the Weed Creek School Board and on the board of directors of the Thorsby Rural Fire Protection Association. Also, for a period of 4 years he served as a road building and repairing foreman for the County of Leduc. Stella held the position of church secretary for a number of years.

During the past few years Nick and Stella have become actively involved in the Thorsby Senior Citizens Group. Nick is presently a member of the executive and Stella is a member of the entertainment committee.

Fifty years of being a tiller of the soil is a long time. However, to this couple who were constantly trying new and better ways of "tilling the soil", it seems but a



Dr. Harvey Zingle, wife Donna and children: Wade, Sheree and Randy.

short while. Perhaps their philosophy for success is best expressed by Charles F. Kettering. He suggests that when starting something new, and somebody comes to us and says, "Don't you think you are going to have a lot of trouble?" We ought to say, "Sure, anytime you start to do anything new, trouble is guaranteed. Success depends on whether you get through the trouble or not."

RODGER AND OLGA ZINGLE

In June 1956 Rodger and Olga Plett of Coaldale, Alberta were married, making their home in Edmonton until the fall of 1966 when they moved to Vancouver, B.C.

In the spring of 1968 they returned to Alberta to purchase the 90-acre family farm in the Thorsby district from Rodger's parents George and Alice Zingle. The next 8 years were spent replacing some of the old buildings with a fully automated barn housing 10,000 laying hens on the main floor and 5,000 replacement birds on the second floor.

A large majority of the eggs produced during the first 6 years were washed and graded by an automatic machine for delivery each week to various outlets in Edmonton. The balance was shipped to a wholesaler. The next 2 years all the eggs were sold to a wholesaler in Edmonton.

Rodger and Olga also expanded their grain production by purchasing an adjacent quarter of land from Peter and Adeline Dedio, as well as another 80 acres consistig mainly of bush which was cleared for additional production of grain.

In 1976 the poultry business was sold along with the 80 acres it was situated on and another 60-acre parcel nearby was purchased from Joe Dedio on which Rodger and Olga have set up a new yard site on which has been built a house and machine shop. They are at present devoting most of their time to grain farming. They have 3 girls, Robyn, Dawn, and Shannon, all attending school in Thorsby.

Willow Creek

School Pistrict No. 529 January 4, 1899



Willow Creek School Wm. Rogers teacher.

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The First Homesteaders & Grants to the CPR

The Information on this Map Courtesy of: Alberta Prov. Archives and Alberta Gov't Map Division

EBP 749- R27- W4

WILLOW CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 529

by Mrs. Charlie Erickson

The first school in Willow Creek was a log building built on George Phillips land SW 28-49-27-W4 in 1899. Miss Clara Kent was the teacher in this log building, no doubt from 1899 to 1900. The next teacher was a Mr. Athol Bissett, who later became a domestic court judge in Edmonton.

The one room Willow Creek school was built in 1900 on land donated by the late Mr. Eric Westlund on the SW 23-49-27 W4. Date of its registration was January 4th, 1900 and it was given the serial number 529. The trustees were Mr. Eric Westlund and Mr.

Charlie Phillips.

I am unable to find out if Miss Kent taught in the new one-room school in 1900 to 1901. A list of teachers from 1899 taken from the Willow Creek School Minute Book which has the minutes from Jan. 4th, 1905 until January 15th, 1938, is as follows:

1899-1900 Miss Clara Kent; 1900-1901 Kent or Bissett?; 1901-1902 Mr. Athol Bissett; 1902-1904 Catherine Woods; 1904-1906 Duncan Martin; 1906-1907 Miss I. Grover; 1907-1909 Miss Wurzba; 1909-1910 Mable Phillips; 1910-1911 Miss Ringwall; 1911-1912 N. Campbell; 1912-1913 Daisy Cornell; 1913-1914 Mrs. Beuley; 1914-1915 Daisy Cornell; 1915-1916 W. Rodgers; 1916-1917 Marion Phillips; 1917-1918 M. Smith; 1918-1919 Idina Fors; and 1919-1920 W. Rodgers.

Senior Room	_	Junior Room
W. Rodgers	1920-1921	A. Andstrom
A. Sandstrom	1921-1923	
G.E. Moody		E. William &
		H. Patrick
G.E. Moody	1924-1925	H. Patrick
Agnes Dixon		Lillian Chapman



Willow Creek School about 1912, teacher Daisy Cornell.

	-,	
Agnes Dixon	1926-1927	Selma Ekstrom
Agnes Dixon	1927-1928	K. Kreighton
W.R. Fors	1928-1929	Tillie Knutson
W.R. Fors	1930-1932	Tillie Erickson
W.R. Fors	1932-1934	M. MacDonald
W.R. Fors	1934-1942	E.A. Westlund
W.R. Fors	1942-1943	Alice Anderson
I.E. Smith	1943-1945	Lila Engberg
Wm. Stroschein	1945-1946	Alice Workun
Wm. Stroschein	1946-1947	Gladys Wurban
Lorna Hennessey	1947-1948	K. Holick
Agnes Dixon	1948-1949	Lorna Hennessey
Agnes Dixon	1949-1950	Ethel Anderson
Mrs. Hargraves		Miss Westover
C 1		

Some other interesting information is the boarding places for teachers which is as follows: George Phillips, Eric Westlund's, Eric Lundblad's, Eric Dixon's, Andrew Dickson's and John Ingers.

From the minute book we have the following: - that Miss Catherine Woods taught from Oct. 1st 1904 until April 1st 1905 for \$45.00 a month and the school



Willow Creek School, Miss Daisy Cornell Teachs, 1911-1912.
Back Row: Gust and Oscar Dixon. 2nd Row: Oscar Dickson, Edwin Dixon. 3rd Row: Wilfred & Arvid Dixon, Charlie Erickson, May Vanmetre. 4th Row: Esther Westlund, Ellen Lundblad, Eva Terlesky, Fedelia Sutherland. Front Row: Edna Vanmetre, Annie Lundblad, Alex Babiak, Mary Terlesky, Oscar Westlund, Andrew Ekstrom, Ethel Phillips, Ella Westlund, Hilma Dickson, Elsie Kvarnberg.

. Willow Creek S. D. No. 529

Attendance for the Month of August

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board had to borrow the money to pay her.

1904—1905, the Secretary-Treasurer received \$25.00 a year for his work.

In 1905 a farmer received \$2.50 for a cord of wood for fuel. In 1905 the school house was painted and the cost was \$29.00. In 1905 a fence built around the school yard and well cost \$37.00. In 1908 the janitor received 10¢ a day. Also a fireguard was plowed around the school and the chimney cleaned for \$3.00.

From the Alberta Teachers Association, I found that the Willow Creek School was closed in June 1951 and sold by the County of Leduc to the Willow Creek Community Association which had been formed. It became a very active community centre. The Willow Creek School children went by bus to Calmar and Leduc from then until the present time.

WILLOW CREEK SCHOOL 529

by Mrs. Charlie (Tillie) Erickson

I, Tillie Knutson of Edmonton, received my Teacher's Certificate in 1928 and Willow Creek School 529 was my first and only school where I taught for 4 years from 1928 until 1932.



Tillie and W.R. Fors at Willow Creek School - 1930

In those days a recently graduated teacher had to teach in a country school for 2 years before trying to get into a city school. I remember my parents hoping I could get a school not too far away from home. My dad, who had worked for Oscar Erickson in Willow Creek, mentioned this to him and Oscar said he'd try "to pull a few strings" so to speak and asked the Willow Creek School Board to consider my application. It was accepted and I was to board at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Dixon.

The Willow Creek School in the Calmar area was in an easy community for me in which to feel at home. I don't think it was because I was a Norwegian gal and there were many Scandinavians in the district. The Ukrainians, Germans, and English, etc. made me feel at home and I found it easy to take an interest in and join in their community projects.

The people in Willow Creek were past the pioneer

stage. Most had good homes, farm buildings, cars, and the roads had been surveyed and ran from north to south and from east to west. I had no trouble getting my pay cheque every month. My wages started at \$800.00 a year and went up to \$1,000.00 a year. This was pretty good for those days. I paid \$20.00 a month for board the first year and the second year it went up to \$25.00 per month. I didn't complain as the meals at the Dixon's were good. There was plenty of life there with the Dixon boys who had an orchestra and practiced every week. I got home on several weekends.

The 3½ miles to school was travelled by a cutter and horse in the winter and by a buggy and horse in summer. The fact that my boarding place and school didn't have running water and indoor plumbing didn't bother me as my home in Edmonton didn't get modernized until 1929.

Willow Creek was a good 2-room school. I had the junior room with Grades 1 to 4, averaging 8 pupils in each grade and they kept me busy. Most pupils had never seen a movie and I shall never forget how happy and thrilled I made them when I had a member of the Department of Extension from the University of Alberta bring a projector and put on a show. I asked for a comedy film which would bring many a laugh and create lots of excitement and it surely did. Then I wanted a film which was of a more serious nature and one which taught them a lesson. The title of this film was "Honesty is the Best Policy".

We had been reading and studying about the customs of the Eskimo people - how they lived, built their igloos, got their food, and made their clothes. So the third film was titled "The Eskimo People" and when the film was finished, the pupils had a better idea of how differently the Eskimo people's lives were from ours. Oh, how they clapped their hands when I thanked the gentlemen who had brought them so much pleasure that afternoon.

Only once did I have to close my room for a week because of an outbreak of measles. In June 1930 I was asked by my School Inspector if I'd be willing to take a newly graduated teacher for a week so she could get some experience and insight into the running of a school class with several grades. I was very willing to do this. It was a challenge for me and a treat for my pupils.

I feel the frontier folks should be saluted for the struggles they made to provide schools for their children. Many came in the 1890's from older regions to settle in the wilds of our district. Money was scarce; they were busy building homes, barns and opening land on their homesteads. But they all realized their children needed an education so found, or should I say, took the time to get a school which at first was a log building to be followed by a 1-room and later a 2-room school. They even imposed taxes on themselves to pay the teachers' wages and equip the first schools which often were better than the homes they lived in.

When I graduated from the Camrose Normal School, there was no big celebration. Two professors from the University of Alberta came and each gave a speech. They congratulated us on the choice of our vocation and hoped we'd enjoy our work. Teachers were and always would be needed they said. I'd always respected my teachers and appreciated the help they gave me to reach my goal. When I came to Willow Creek, my aim was to try and do the same for the students entrusted to me - that is to gain some knowledge that would prepare them and make it easier for them to face the realities of this world - sort of following the Golden Rule - "Do unto others as you'd have them do unto you".

CALMAR SWEDISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

by Glenys Wronko

At the turn of the century the estimated number of Swedish people in Alberta was 10,000 of whom only 175 had joined the Swedish Augustana congregations. In the fall of 1901 at the Minnesota Conference, Pastor Per Almgren accepted a call to be missionary pastor in Alberta.

He came to Wetaskiwin headquarters in May, 1902 and immediately set out to visit the growing number of Swedish communities and the five established Augustana congregations in Alberta.



Pastor and Mrs. Per Almgren

Seven new congregations in the Wetaskiwin area were organized by Pastor Almgren, one of them being the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran congregation at Calmar in 1903. It began with a charter membership of eight persons.



Ladies Aid Meeting at Swanson's Farm 1906.

Back Row: Mrs. O. Sorenson, Mrs. Orhn, Mrs. Fred Erickson, Mrs.

Breta Erickson, Mrs. Andrew Dixon, Mrs. Anna Hagen, Mrs. Andrew Erickson, Mrs. Christine Lundblad, Mrs. Swanson. Sitting down Annie Lundblad, Eric Lundblad, Eric Ohrn.

Anders and Brita Erickson donated three acres of land on the northwest corner of their farm, NW 22-49-27-W4, to be used for the church site and for a cemetery.

Pastor Almgren faithfully served the Swedish people of the area until 1906, at which time he met with a fatal accident. He had completed a service at Pigeon Lake where he had preached on the text "For we know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." 2 Cor. 5.I. The hymn that was sung was "My Home I Seek and Homeward Here I Journey." Leaving for home by sleigh, and accompanied by a layman from Wetaskiwin, they travelled through a stretch of woods where homesteaders were felling trees. Without warning one of the trees crashed down onto the sleigh



Pastor Olaf Lindgren



Calmar Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church. Erecting the steeple.

striking a fatal blow to Pastor Almgren.

On June 17, 1906, on recommendation by the Minnesota Conference, Pastor Olaf Lindgren, who had previously been a student minister in Alberta, was called as a missionary to Calmar and surrounding missions in Alberta.

He and his family lived on NE 21-49-27-W4, not far from the church, for the next two years.

By 1907 the Calmar Swedish Evangelical Church had been built by its members. Flat stones from the bed of the Conjuring Creek north of Calmar were hauled by team and wagon to the church site to be used for the foundation. Lumber was sawed at the Anderson sawmill, north of Calmar. The interior walls and high arched ceiling were made of wood lath and plaster. Andrew Erickson made the arch window frames and the sons of Eric Anderson and Pastor Lindgren built the tall steeple.

Much later, possibly in the middle 20's, a new communion rail and altar were constructed. Also the cross and monogram over the altar, and an aisle carpet, and perhaps three dozen bow back chairs were purchased.

Pastor Lindgren's confirmation class from February 28 to November 24, 1907 included the following: Matt H. Hagen, Charlotta Erickson, (Fred Erickson's wife) John Emil Lundblad, Olaf Andrias Blomquist, Adolf Lundblad and Nels Anderson.

In 1908 the Calmar Swedish Evangelical Church boasted the largest Augustana building in Alberta. The baptized membership had grown to sixty-five people.

About this time Pastor Lindgren moved to a home near Czar, Alberta. He continued to serve the Calmar church until 1911, travelling there often in bitter cold, with his faithful grey team of horses, Nellie and Florrie.

In the following years the church was served by travelling missionaries or pastors when they were available. This decade also saw its demise as the region was sparsely settled by Swedish people and the population was constantly shifting as the settlers looked for better land. Since the number of Augustana pastors was very inadequate, the church was largely left to itself, and was thus undermined by other sects.

Pastor N.J. Lundahl was the last pastor to hold Swedish services. In 1919 the congregation was dissolved. Mr. G. Evenson and Mr. Andrew Erickson were to look after the church and give permission to those wanting to use it. The records of the church and cemetery were destroyed in a house fire at the home of Mr. Evenson, hence cemetery records now only date back to December 1925.

As Andrew Erickson grew older, his son Frankie assumed the job of looking after the cemetery and sending in burial records to the Bureau of Vital Statistics. Later the Augustana Conference appointed Frank Erickson as caretaker without remuneration. In 1962 Glenys Erickson, with the help of her father, spent part of her school holidays making a map of the cemetery with sites of the graves and names and dates of those buried there. To date it is the only map in existence.

After 1919 pastors from other Lutheran Synods came to hold irregular services.

Following are excerpts from minutes of the Swedish Lutheran Ladies' Aid, 1926.

"On Sunday, June 13, 1926, at the service held by Pastor Wrych it was decided to form a Calmar Ladies' Aid. This had long been considered a necessity by all. The first meeting of the Calmar Ladies' Aid was held at the home of Mrs. Munk on June 16. This took the form of business, discussion and meeting. Pastor Miller and Pastor Wrych led the service.

It was decided that money obtained from sale of sewing was to go to the improvement of the church.

The third monthly meeting was held at the home of Mrs. O. Ekstrom on August 12. There was a large attendance.

Nov. 25, 1926 a bazaar and sale of lunch was held in the Lutheran church. The amount received from the sewing was \$40.05 and from the lunch \$4.90.

The first meeting of 1927 was held at Mrs. Ingers. The proceeds of the lunch and white elephant was \$3.50. After a delicious lunch by the hostess the members of the "Aid" and friends went to E. Lundblad's to listen to a radio program.

Mr. Arthur Swanson accepted the task of painting the church. Amount to be paid him was \$65.00.

Nov. 1927, the quilt was all finished but sewing it around the outside. They decided to hold the bazaar on Nov. 24th.

Again the membership decreased. However there were a number of families of German origin in the district now and Pastors Goos, Duesterhoeft and Oswald received permission to use the church for services and Bible school during the summer months.

By the late 1940's the church was in dire need of repairs and there was only a very small congregation to do the work. In 1952, by permission of the Synod, the Calmar Swedish Lutheran Church was sold to the Thorsby United Church board for \$150.00. They dismantled it and used the materials to enlarge their own small church in Thorsby.

In 1962, the Augustana Synod became part of the Western Canada Synod. Since there was no church of the synod in the immediate area, the cemetery was given to the community and became the Willow Creek Community Cemetery.

It is hoped that the community is still being blessed in some way by the life and witness of this struggling church.

Sources of information:

- 1. The book, Augustana Lutherans in Canada
- 2. L.C. of A. Archives, Chicago, Illinois

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

by Walter Maryka

About 1932 at the age of 8 I got my first and only bicycle - or should I say parts of a bicycle. There was a 28-inch frame and two wheels alright, but no seat or tires. The wheels had wooden rims which were twisted and bent so badly that they would not turn between the forks. I think I bugged my dad that year and part of the next before it was fixed. My dad made a wooden seat covered with an old sweat pad. I was still too small, so I learned to ride that bicycle with my foot through the bar. It makes me wonder now, how many miles I did put on that bicycle in all the years that I had it. I rode it to school when the roads were dry, to Wizard Lake to fish for jack fish, to Thorsby once in a while, to Buford many, many times, and I'd even herd cows with it

The depression came and the drought years were just settling in. The drought is more familiar to me. The crops were poor, and so short that the binder could hardly cut the heads off. It was practically impossible to stook because there wasn't enough straw to make a bundle. We kids had to go behind the stookers and rake up all the heads of grain. The grain was all of poor quality and only 10 to 15 bushels to the acre. The wells all over the whole country went dry, and many farmers dug many a well that didn't produce even a cup of water. I think we ended up with about 5 wells. The cattle were so thin we had to pasture them on the road allowance every day during the summer. All the old straw piles were used up for feed during the winter. Money was scarce, so a lot of farmers did road work to try to pay off some of their taxes. The depression fruits were wild saskatoons, raspberries, strawberries and if you were lucky you would get some blueberries. We used to pick buckets of saskatoons along the road allowance and made them into fruit preserves and jams. Dried apples were used for apple pies at threshing time, and it turned out to be a wonderful Christmas if you got a Japanese orange.

But there were other things during this time that sort of put a little cheer into living. We got our first radio during the depression. It was an R.C.A. Victor, 5 tube that had to have 2 "B" batteries and an "A" battery, a long antenna and a ground wire. That was really something, and I believe that the batteries only lasted a month. Mother had her soap programs, the Proctor and Gamble hour. There was the Lux Radio Theatre, the hockey games, and all the kid's programs like the Green Hornet, Dick Tracy, The Shadow, and some cartoons. Things were so bad at times that we would switch the radio off for the commercials just so the batteries would last longer.

We also got our first car around this time. It was, as you could guess, a Model "T" Ford. It was a 1924 model, black with a canvas top, and 4.50 x 21 inch wheels with a split rim, no water pump, but it did have a sort of automatic shift, just high and low. Now with this car, we were treated to far more outings and with any luck we got to Pigeon Lake during the summer. But the fun was trying to get it started during the cold winter days. Everything was so stiff when you cranked it, it would follow you around the yard. You used to have to jack up the rear wheel so it would stay put. We had one other strange car later on, a Columbus, which was a 6 cylinder with 23 inch wheels. It also had a canvas top and I believe that you may still find some parts of it around the farm.

The Maryka family unit, consisted of the parents, John and Julia, and 5 children; Walter, Alice, Leon, Natalie, and Peter. All were born and raised on the farm, where as usual there were always farm chores to do. Some got the easy jobs, like the girls who looked after most of the housework, however everyone at one time or another pitched in on the chores. Someone got the cows, then milked them, fed the pigs, the chickens, and picked the eggs. Someone brought in the wood and coal, filled the reservoir on the stove with water, and made sure the slop pail was empty. Oh yes! The milk had to go through the separator and then the skim milk was fed to the calves. The cattle had to be fed, and the barns cleaned. These were everyday chores, 7 days a week. A lot of these chores were done before and after school.

During spring and fall work there was added work in preparing the horses for field work. At that time the horses pulled the plow, disc, cultivator, harrow, seeder and binder. Horses were hitched in 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 8 horse groups depending on the size of the implement they had to pull. These horses were fed early in the morning, like 4 or 5 o'clock, groomed and harnessed, then hitched up about 7:30 A.M., for their day's work which lasted to about 5:00 P.M. There was ½ acre of potatoes to plant, cultivate, and then dig, enough cabbage to make 2 barrels of sauerkraut, turnips, enough to feed all the people in Sweden, plus beans, peas, carrots and corn. Stooking was hard work. Threshing times were hard, but fun, because a large



Home of early Ukrainian Settler.

crew would come in for 2 or 3 days and thresh all the grain, then move on to the next neighbour.

Mid-summer work consisted of making hay, real hot work because it was always done when the sun shone hot, mowing it, drying it, raking it into piles, hauling it with hay racks and stacking it. There was pride in building a good stack of hay. There were potatoes to hill, gardens to hoe, and buckets of berries to pick, thistles to cut and fences to mend, clear and break 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 acres of new land, and those eternal rooots to pick before the new land could be seeded.

Winter work consisted mostly of keeping warm in the Alberta winter, keeping the cattle fed, and the barns clean. Cutting and splitting a large pile of wood for the kitchen stove was a real chore. By a pile, I mean a pile about the size of a small house, and also hauling a couple of loads of coal. For us kids, there were always winter sports like skating, or sleighing down some small hill or straw pile. We would make our own skis out of a thin board, put a leather toe strap on and maybe a piece of tin on the front turned up, or we would get a long rope and tie it to a sleigh and get pulled all over the country. It was very much like water skiing. And then there was always the 3-day Christmas that came every winter.

Now to something more pleasant than work, which has to be eating! I can't think of anything that stands out more, in my memory, than remembering my Mother's cooking. Mind you, living on a farm and never being hungry for long, and having a good wholesome appetite from a bit of work, you were

never called twice, to come and eat.

We'll start with potatoes, dry, white and flaky. Mash them, add butter and cream and you had half a meal already. Add brown gravy and you could fork in with both hands. For meat there was pork, veal, beef, turkey and chicken. There was always chicken on Sunday with fresh creamed peas and carrots. Of course there was cabbage, sauerkraut and turnips, fresh mushrooms that only the older people ate, home made noodles, wild and tame strawberries with cream, the old fashioned ginger spiced cake, and those big brown sugared bread doughnuts that you could smell for a mile away and taste for a week after. And how good those stolen raisins tasted! There was homemade cottage cheese and honest-to-goodness butter-milk. hot milk soup with either rice or homemade noodles. or both, bean soup with diced potatoes and browned with gravy, red beet borscht that was good, hot or cold. And when you got to Ukrainian food, then the celebration was really on. There was pyrohy, a potato dumpling made from raw grated potatoes with a bit of flour added and shaped into a golf-ball-sized dumpling, cooked and eaten with sour cream, or cottage cheese, with melted butter if it was winter time, pork sliced into small pieces, fried crisp and sprinkled on top. A good feed of these in your tummy would hold you down for a week. Then there was the cabbage roll, or as we call them holubtsi. These were made out of cabbage heads that were pickled in the sauerkraut. When baked, these leaves would turn paper thin while the sauerkraut flavour stayed with the cabbage roll. The filling was usually rice, but

buckwheat and pot barley were used quite often. We also had the home-made sausage called Kobasa. It was made out of the original casing of intestines. The meats in the sausage were ground, spiced, then stuffed into the casing, smoked and cured.

The place to sample all this food was at a Ukrainian wedding. Now this was an affair! If you happened to be a relative, you had a 3 day celebration. The first day was sort of a trial run to sample the food, whiskey and other drinks and to organize the wedding the next day. The second day was the day of the wedding celebration. And the third day, one cleaned up on what was left over. As history has it, in the past these weddings would go on until there was a new-born baby or someone died in the district. These weddings were always large affairs. The whole district was usually invited. The bride and groom sure made a good haul if the parents could afford to supply food and drink for all these people.

The day usually started with a church marriage, then in the afternoon would be the wedding proper which had all the trimmings from decorations to music, to food and drink. After the big meal, which was in the early afternoon, everybody went to toast the bride and groom. Now this is where the big haul starts because everyone came to wish the bride and groom happiness. You shake the groom's hand, but you kiss the bride and present your gift to them which was often money. Then you are offered a drink with which to drink a toast to the bride and groom. While all this toasting is going on, the music is playing and anyone that has a ditty to sing will usually sing it for some particular person. Now these ditties are sometimes made up to suit some personality, and a lot of them sure made the bride blush. A lot of the single men and women get picked on by these singers, but as the drinks take hold no one seemed to get offended and not too many were left out. The bride and groom usually ended up getting the best teasing of their lives. And it wasn't uncommon to go and toast the bride and groom 2 or 3 times. Sometimes the money was pinned on the bride's gown which turned green all over in a hurry. After all this, the wedding dance started and lasted as long as there were people around.

A good old fashioned farm auction sale was always good for a day of fun. People would drive for miles to go to a sale. Sometimes you never bought anything but you would go just to be with all the people.

Church picnics and bazaars were very popular for entertainment because that was where you could meet with the rest of the people in the neighbourhood and visit. These were always well attended. Young and old, rich or poor would usually show up. During the depression, I remember running every race to try and win a thin dime for ice cream. It's funny how much faster you can run if you haven't got 2 nickles to rub together. A nickel would buy you a cone or a pop or a bar or a hot dog or a bag of that hard candy, and if you spent more than 25 ¢ you were a spendthrift.

Now we must not forget the Ukrainian Christmas

which is also a 3-day affair in the first week of January. This follows the old tradition and the old Julian Calendar which is 2 weeks behind our present day calendar. About this time of the year on the farm in Alberta, you could expect some real cold weather.

On the first day you fast after breakfast. You spend the rest of the day preparing for the celebration of Christmas. You get all the work done before the Evening Star appears because then all work stops. From then on, all you do is what is absolutely necessary. You do not plan any major projects as this is the time you are to celebrate the return of Christ. The women have prepared all the good things to eat and have seen to the decorating of the house.

In our custom we did not have a Christmas tree. Instead, we used to prepare something which would resemble the manger where Christ was born. We would spread hay on the floor in one corner of the house or under the table if there was room. Then there would be put a sheaf of grain, a small variety of fruits and nuts, and maybe some of the prepared food. Our gifts were usually scattered in with this. I dare say that when we were allowed to get to the goodies and our gifts from this pile, there was hay and straw spread a long way from where it was originally.

The table was set with most of the favourite food. There was usually every type of food that was available in those days; fish, hams, spiced meats, and vegetables, all sorts of baking and preserves were set out, and you were to eat a little bit of every food. Before we ate, a prayer was said and we sang 1 or 2 carols. After the meal, the dishes were stacked up and were left that way to be washed the next day. The food was left on the table, along with a clean place-setting, in case a stranger came to the door.

On the second day the visiting began, mostly between relatives. In those days the families were larger than they are now, and these gatherings would be like our present day socials. But the big thing in those days and in the country was the weather, which was pretty cold. To get from here to there was done with horses and sleighs and most of the time you would have to go 4 or 5 miles. That would take you about an hour and a half. So if it was about 10 below zero, there were some cold people. But all of this was forgotten, because it was "Christmas" and it was a lot of fun for young and old alike. Also on this day, in the evening, the caroling would start. There would be groups of carolers go from house to house, to sing. They would arrive and start to sing a carol on the way to the front door. The head of the house would invite them in, greet them and thank them for being so kind as to pick his house to sing and ask them to sing another 1 or 2 carols. After that the group would be treated to food and drinks and if he was a very good host, then he would get another carol sung. By the end of the evening some of these carolers would be quite a bit off key. On the third day of Christmas things would sort of slow down and the visiting was generally catching up on the neighbourhood friends. These

were mostly short stays. A drink or 2, something to eat, a bit of talk and you were on your way. All in all things went very well most of this day because of the turnover of so many people. But you would see people that you hadn't seen all year, come to wish you a Merry Christmas. In those days, people meant a lot to each other. Now another day to remember was Halloween, say in the 1930's. The weather was usually cool or cold and many times there was snow on the ground. The only one you could holler "Trick or Treat" to was the store-keeper. Here you could get some of that rock hard candy. But the rest of the night was strictly tricks. There wasn't anything that couldn't be moved! Binders would be pushed into the bush. Wagons would be taken apart and carried piece by piece up into someone's hayloft and re-assembled there. Every "outhouse" that wasn't on concrete was upset. Some were just moved back beyond the hole, which was a very dirty trick. Cows were harnessed and left like that to be found at milking time in the morning. Doors were tied and gates left open. Mail boxes were put at different peoples' places. Fire crackers were very rare in those days. My dad would leave his lighted lantern in the middle of the yard all night and the guys thought that he might be up watching to catch anybody that would come around. That worked well for quite a number of years but someone caught on, so someone took the lantern and had a real good time carrying on with his tricks. That was one mad father the next day, mostly because he had to buy himself another lantern. There were times when someone would let drive with a rifle or a shotgun, mostly into the air or into some of the large stands of bush that were still around in those days. Now if you were around one of these shots in the cold winter night, and you thought that it was meant for you, it sure put a scare into you. That is one of the loudest things that I have ever heard in my life. And the speed that you had to cover the next couple of miles was unheard of. That place you would remember the next year for sure!

Alberta winters back in the 1930's should not be forgotten! It isn't that they are not cold now, but in those days with the type of materials used for houses, heating and the kind of clothing that we wore, made them quite cold. None of the houses were insulated. They were of frame construction with wall paper on the inside walls to make them look pretty. There were no storm windows so when the cold really set in, the single window pane frosted right up to the top with the prettiest designs you could ever hope to see. It was fun to get your nose or your tongue on the frost and make a few designs yourself. When it got this cold the frost would come right through the walls and every nail-head would have frost on it even with 2 or 3 layers of wall paper over the nails. At night the fire would be banked and the temperature in the house would drop below freezing. The old water bucket would have a crust of ice in the morning. In bed you were not too badly off, but the cold would sneak up from the bottom. Those old mattresses, after they had been

slept on for a number of years, would be only about an inch think so you made sure that you would turn quite often. You'd pile on every quilt and blanket and maybe some topcoats, and the weight would be so heavy you could hardly turn over in bed. The only thing that saved some of the smaller kids was there were always 2 or 3 that slept together so that you had a bit of help when you had to turn. If you were lucky enough to have a feather tick, then you had it beat. But I can remember going to bed with my socks on many a time. The only time you took your long underwear off was on the week-end when you bathed and changed to a clean suit. For the outside, you made sure you bundled up properly or it would mean frostbite. You would put on 2 pairs of pants, 2 or 3 pairs of heavy wool socks inside your felt boots, 2 pairs of woolen mitts inside your leather ones, and about 2 sweaters under your heavy mackinaw coat. A heavy fur cap went on your head with a scarf wound around your neck right up to your eyes. And to this day, I think that the only thing that kept me warm was the weight of the clothes that were on my back. This was the way we walked to school many times in about 20 or 30 below zero. Everything would be O.K., until mother-nature called! Things would get pretty cold then. Remember in those days, we never had any zippers and with your fingers cold and numb, you just couldn't do up those darn buttons.

The roads in those days were usually bushed in on both sides so that when the winds would start blowing they would drift snow up to 10 feet high. The drifts would be hard enough to walk on. The farmers would take down some of their fences and travel on the fields instead of the roads. They would stay that way until spring came along and melted the drifts. The only snow plows used in those days were for the main highways.

I think the coldest part I remember, was going to the out-house in the middle of the night, when you just had to go! You'd delay as long as was possible hoping that you might not have to, but when the time actually came, you were in one heck of a hurry! You'd grab what ever coat was handy, the warmest boots that you saw and take off. Your stay was never too long, you did what you had to, and got back inside in a hurry. But the next day when you would look at the length of the stride you took in the snow, you would know exactly how big of a hurry you were in. You could never match that stride any other time.

Those "two-holers" were sure hard to find at night. There weren't any yard lights in those days. And those out-houses were not the prettiest looking buildings, so they were usually hidden back in the bush, at least a hundred yards from the house. So, when in the dead of night you had to find your way and you didn't take dead aim, you could get lost and waste precious time. Or there could be some stupid animal wandering around grazing, or worse still, something like a cow would be lying down right on your path to the little house. These were usually very ungainly situations

with some very profane comments. Then there was the old dog that would spot you when you were in a dead run and think that maybe it was time for him to have a little romp with you. Did you ever try and dodge around a black dog when it's pitch black outside? Or, if you did sneak past him on the way out then he'd catch you on the way back for sure! He'd bark just about the time when you were right beside him and scare the liver out of you or growl and maybe not let you back in the house for awhile.

But on a starry night, with the door open, you had yourself the grandest view that you'd ever wish to see. And in the spring of the year, you would be treated to a chorus of frogs that were in every pond for miles around. Or you would get 2 owls hooting back and forth to each other. If you had a good enough hoot, you might even get an answer back. So with the privacy you had in that "little house", all you really needed was a bit more heat, then you could have stayed and really enjoyed yourself.

This is what "I remember when!"

HAMLET OF BUFORD

submitted by Wanda Markstedt

When Albin Markstedt, camera in hand, went down to the station to meet the first train to come through what is now known as Buford, little did he know of the changes that would occur in the community. It was the fall of 1930 and the train was westbound, meeting up the track from the east to the line that had come to Thorsby from the west the previous year. The siding was named Buford, getting its name from the Buford Post Office which was located in Anderson's Store.

The United Grain Growers had already built an elevator and started to buy grain immediately, with Ed



Buford Sports Day 1946. The only Sports Day Buford ever had.

Wedman the first buyer. His living quarters were in the elevator office until a house was built on a lot purchased from the Ekstrom Estate.

About that time Michael Babiak leased a parcel of land from Bill Sendziak and built the first Buford Store with living quarters in the back.

Within two years the Pioneer Grain Company built an elevator and installed Charles Purdue as first grain buyer. He was followed by Frank Therriault and in 1935 Beverley Banks took over. The company had bought land from Ekstrom and built a house for their buyer to live in. Bob Woodman followed Banks and then Emil Skoye, Herman Wollen, Ken Planidin, Lee Cook and Victor Oberg all had a turn at the job until fire destroyed the elevator in 1952 and the Pioneer Grain Co. decided not to rebuild.

In 1932 Albert Krause took over at the U.G.G. as grain buyer and he left when Bob Belter came in 1934. At that time Mr. Epplet bought the store from Babiak and expanded the business, carrying everything from aspirin to hardware. He and his wife spent long hours in the store, a convenience to the farmers.

In 1935 the Federal Grain Co. built an elevator and Bob Hale was the first grain buyer. A house was built on property leased from B. Sendziak, adjoining



First train that pulled into Buford siding in 1930. Albin Markstedt.



Airview photo of Buford General Store.

the store to house the buyer and his family. Mr. Hale stayed on the job until Howard Robertson took over in 1947.

In the meantime in 1938 Mr. Yashkiw started a second store in Buford but sold to the Larsons about a year later. Albin Markstedt bought 93 acres of land from the Ekstrom Estate. He proceeded to sell lots on the frontage and this is where most of Buford is now situated. Steve Adamic moved in, buying 45 acres from Albin, and started a trucking business. Mike Lyka and Sam Adamic started a chop mill together in 1942. This business lasted only a few years and Sam went back to the farm and Lyka started trucking.

After the fire in 1952 which destroyed both the Pioneer and the Federal Grain elevators, the latter re-built quickly. In 1953 Charlie Cameron replaced Robertson and he stayed for twelve years. Gordon Neil followed and bought grain for four years before moving to Fairview. Clay McVeety and Ron Smith followed, each with a short term as grain buyers.

John Harrison replaced Bob Belter at the U.G.G. in 1943 and he and his family stayed until 1969 when he retired and moved to Edmonton. Gary Miller came next but stayed only about six months. The Federal Grain Co. bought out the U.G.G. and Nick Pawlick became the only grain buyer in Buford in May, 1970.

The elevator changed hands from Federal to Alberta Pacific and then to Alberta Wheat Pool in March, 1972.

Mr. Eplett had run the store very successfully but the hours were long and work was hard so he sold to Harold Thompson. Herman Wollen, Thompson's brother-in-law had the Lion Oil dealership. They continued until 1947 when Art Terlesky purchased from them.

In 1939 when the Larsons bought the other store

they began adding on to the building. Mrs. Larson operated a coffee shop for a while besides running the store. She also offered a very helpful service to all farmers who hauled grain to the U.G.G. She was cashier for the company and the farmers were able to cash their grain cheques without going to Thorsby bank. One corner of the store was made into a post office and she was also post mistress. In 1947 however, business was closed down and John and Kate Mankow purchased the premises. The post office was then moved into the Terlesky Store and Art became postmaster. Art's brother John and his wife Mary took over in 1953 and Mary was postmistress, selling out to Albert and Ebba Friend in 1961. A year later Albert died and in 1964 Ebba sold to Larry and Olga Stepanko. They operated the store, post office and Gulf Oil Dealership until 1969 when the Federal Government closed most of the small country post offices, Buford included. The Stepankos closed their store in 197

Many C.P.R. section workers lived in Buford - to name a few: Mr. Karpa, Steve Harrish, Bill Maday,

Metro Maday and Walter Blazenko.

Bill Yanish operated a Chop Mill for a number of years.

Some people who lived here in the past and have not been mentioned before are Ernie Huber and family, Barry Logan, Harvey Theriault, Cecil and Angeline Chimera, a trucker and farmer, Mrs. Wurban, Luke Dedrouseau and family, and Bill Kortz.

At the present time the residents in Buford are as follows: The Paul Harrish family, Sid Harrish family, John Crawford family, Leonard Swanson family, Handford family, Lance Corke, Mr. Myrhaugen, Mussivand family, Dorothy Astles, Sally Bishop and Bonnie Miller, Kate Mankow, Reinhold Ruff, Rosaire Vallee family and Albin and Wanda Markstedt.

WILLOW CREEK SPORTS



Willow Creek Basketball Team, 1914-1915. From left to right: Grace Phillips, Myrtle Englund, Ellen Lundblad, Coach Happy Phillips, Esther Westlund, Hazel Phillips, Nellie Swanson and Jennie Ohrn.



A group of young Willow Creekers admiring Oscar Sorenson's Model T Ford, in 1917. In back seat: Eric & Arvid Dixon, Rudolph Falk. In front seat: Charlie Erickson & Oscar Modin (at steering wheel). Standing: (l. to r.): Eddie Erickson, Robert Thompson, & Oscar Westlund. Holding crank: Henry Westlund.



This baseball team was the pride of Willow Creek in the 1920's. L. to R.: Eddie Alton, Harold Phillips, Mike Sturko, Charlie Lindberg, Percy Sandstrom, Melvin Anderson, Charlie Erickson, Adolph Lundblad, Elmer Westlund.



Basketball & Softball team 1930.
Back Row: Mabel Dunham, Marie Phillips, Grace Phillips, Alice
Ekstrom, Kate Babiuk, Othelia Hartman. Front Row: Selma Ekstrom,
Tillie Knutson, Rose Terlesky.

BUFORD VASA LODGE #577

The Buford Vasa Lodge was formed on March 13, 1932. This Lodge is only one of over 700 Lodges in Canada, the United States and Sweden that make up the Vasa Order of America. The name Vasa comes from Gustavus Vasa, the King who ruled Sweden from 1523 to 1560. The purpose of these fraternal lodges is to assist and visit its members who are sick or in distress, and to preserve the heritage and culture of the Scandinavian people.

The first organizational meeting of Buford Vasa Lodge was held at 8:30 P.M., April 29, 1932, with District Master Oscar Grahn acting chairman, and District Treasurer Carl Freidholm acting as secretary.

The Charter members were: K.R. Jonson, Fjaller Jonson, Julius Bergstrom, Carl Jonson, Albert Jonson, Roy Anderson, Berger Forsberg, Frank Carlson, Sam Wickstrom, Helfred Bergstrom, Christina Carlson, Isadore Bergstrom, Abner Jonson, Gust Forsman, Rosella Anderson, Earl Erickson, Anna Anderson, Mandred Oslund and Florence Johnson.

The first executive was: Chairman — Frank Carlson; Vice Chairman — Julius Bergstrom; Secretary — Rosella Anderson; Vice Secretary — Earl Erickson; Financial Secretary — Carl Jonson; Vice Financial Secretary — Sam Wickstrom; Treasurer — Roy Anderson; Chaplain — Anna Anderson; Master of Ceremonies — Helfred Bergstrom; Ass't Master of Ceremonies — Berger Forsberg; Inner Guard — Albert Jonson; Outer Guard — Gust Forsman; Past Chairman — Fjaller Jonson.

As of this writing, (Oct. 1978) only 3 active Charter members remain; Fjaller Jonson, Julius Bergstrom, and Sam Wickstrom.

The first 'Sick Committee' members were; Frank and Christina Carlson, Mrs. Ole Anderson, Mrs. Earl Erickson, Helfred Bergstrom and A. Jonson. It was their duty to visit the sick members and thereby bring cheer and good wishes for a speedy recovery.

All banking was done in Leduc until 1935 when the account was changed to Thorsby.

The first meetings were held in Kulm School, and after 1935 they were held in the Glen Park Hall. the rent at that time was 50¢ a meeting in winter and 25¢ a meeting in the summer. In Dec. 1950 it was decided to have the meetings in the members' homes. November 1951 saw this changed again, when the meetings were held in the old Willow Creek Community Centre by paying half the installation costs of Calgary Power. Meetings continue to be held in this building.

Until May 1953 all the meetings were conducted in the Swedish language, and at that time a motion was made to switch to English.

A Children's Club was formed on Oct. 2, 1938, and continued for several years. It disbanded in the late '40's due to a shortage of children in that age group. It commenced again in the early '60's and was active for a few years. For several summers, a camp week was held at Pigeon Lake in conjunction with the



Vasa Camp celebrates 40th Anniversary March 13, 1972. L. to R.: Helfred Bergstrom, Floyd Modin, Julius Bergstrom, Fjaller Jonson, Bert Jonsson, Sam Wickstrom.

Edmonton and Falun Lodges. The children were given swimming and rowing lessons, Swedish, handicrafts, singing, dancing and hiking. At the end of the week there was a program to show the parents what was accomplished during the week.

In April, 1956, a motion was made to purchase 2 shares in the Scandinavian Center in Edmonton. This beautiful building was dedicated in June of 1964. It now faces the growing pains of urban development and a new location must be found.

The well used word "Smorgasbord" is a Swedish word meaning 'bread and butter', and what better way to announce a feast of authentic Scandinavian food? The Buford Vasa Lodge has instituted the "Smorgasbord" as an annual event since the mid-forties and is as popular today as it was then. Two other annual events are the Christmas Party and the exchange of gifts after the pot-luck supper, and in summer a wiener roast.

On March 13, 1972, the 40th anniversary was celebrated. At that time there were 4 remaining Charter members; Helfred and Julius Bergstrom, Fjaller Jonson and Sam Wickstrom who were in attendance, and also Grand Lodge Deputy Floyd Modin and Member of the Grand Lodge Executive Board Bert Jonsson of Calgary. There were also other guests from across the province.

There are many inter-club activities within the district, such as bowling, curling and cross-country skiing. The curling trophy has been named the Floyd Modin Memorial Trophy as it was Floyd who first interested the other Lodges in the district in inter-club curling competition. Bowling and skiing activities were added later.

The district, consisting of Edmonton, Falun, Meeting Creek, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Stavely, Lethbridge and Buford Lodges, holds a Convention every other year on the third weekend in June, and each Lodge alternates as host. The Grand Lodge (which includes every Lodge) has a Convention every 4 years.

On reading the old minute book, 2 interesting items were noticed — a truck was hired to take the members to Wetaskiwin Beach for July 30th and 31st, 1932, and in the minutes of March 1939 — a banquet was to be held in the Thorsby Hotel on April 10, and 60 tickets were to be made up and sold for 50¢ each.

Meetings are held in Willow Creek the last Thursday of every month and there is a membership of just under a hundred persons.

THE WILLOW CREEK LADIES' CLUB

submitted by Mrs. Charlie Erickson

It just doesn't seem that long ago, (but it really is) when on March 21, 1952, a group of Willow Creek ladies met at the home of the late Laura Westlund to form a Ladies' Club. We liked the ideas and sentiments expressed in the theme song suggested by the late Mrs. R. Dalton and always opened our meetings singing it, feeling that by following it we should have a worthwhile club.

The Willow Creek Ladies' Club Theme Song

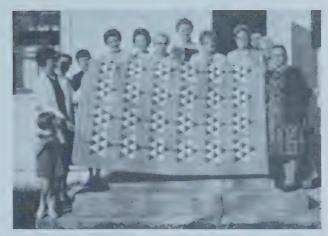
A goodly thing it is to meet, In friendship's circle bright, Where nothing mars its pleasure sweet Or dims each radiant light No unkind words our lips shall pass, No envy sour the mind, But each shall seek the common weal, The good of all mankind.

Our club had 3 main purposes: 1) We planned to be an auxiliary club, working together with the Willow Creek Community Association which was formed when the Willow Creek School was closed as a result of the centralization of our schools, 2) to plan social gatherings and 3) to give a helping hand not only in our district but also outside of our community.

In no time at all we realized we had a good foundation on which to build a club. We found we had such sterling qualities as Friendship, Truth, Love, Hope, Faith and Charity which, when subtly blended and cared for, made a strong chain of equal links. As the years slipped by, we felt that our group was a sort of 'Rock of Gibraltar' in our community. Any project planned was entered into whole-heartedly, each member doing his or her best and respecting the efforts and contributions made by others. We ladies salute our men in the community as many of the projects planned required their help and they always so very willingly supported us in our undertakings.

The first obligation to be met was to raise money to pay for the school which had been bought in 1952 from the county by the Willow Creek Community Association. By 1954 this had been accomplished. Then we had to have electricity brought in and start furnishing the centre.

Our money-making projects have included holding teas and bazaars, bingos, raffling various articles, holding dances, box socials, pie socials, selling lunch at auction sales, and card parties to name a few. Worthy of mention were 3 special money-making undertakings. To celebrate Canada's Centennial Year, we made and raffled a Centennial Quilt which most appropriately was won by a centennial baby. In 1968 we compiled and edited a cookbook, which we feel was aptly named 'Sharing Our Best'. The copies sold like 'hot cakes'. Since 1961 the members have taken turns in writing news from our district for the Leduc



Some members of the Willow Creek Ladies' Club and the Centennial quilt they made and raffled in 1967. From left to right: Avis Pearson, Ruby Kvarnberg, Natali Stachnik, Wanda Markstedt, Mary Babiak, Annie Jacobson, Tillie Erickson, Bertha Falk, Ellen Pearson, and Tillie Kvarnbera.



Willow Creek Square Dance Club's Easter Dance, Apr. 19, 1954.
Prizes were given to ladies with best bonnets and gents with best Easter
ties. Winners (L. to R.): Gerda Erickson, Chas. Erickson, Erma
Skjersven (nee Anderson), Floyd Modin.



Willow Creek Ladies' Club 25th Anniversary - March 13, 1977 Charter Members who had been members for 25 years. Back row: Wanda Markstead, Angela Pearson and Alice Evanson. Seated: Annie Jacobson, Tillie Erickson, Elsie Phillips, and Ellen Pearson, missing Tillie Kvarnberg.

Representative. The money was good and we put Willow Creek on the map and tried to show it as an

active and progressive community.

We recall with fond memories those 'Good Old Days' when for 6 years we allemanded to the left, dosi-doed, met our partners on the corner and gave each other a healthy swing. Yes, you guessed it. Square dancing was in full swing. Our dance club became well known. We entertained square dancers from far and near and we visited several clubs too.

We've gone out of our way to give help outside of our communtiy. Each year regular donations were made to the Heart, Cancer and Canadian National Institute for the Blind Funds, and of late a yearly donation has been made to the Calmar Laudy Adamic Scholarship Fund. We also willingly supported several Fire Funds. Used clothing has been collected for welfare organizations, we've sent used cards to the Winnifred Stewart School and held picnics at our centre and invited the public. When the Leduc Municipal Hospital and the Calmar and Thorsby Senior Citizens Recreation Centres were opened, we gave each a generous donation. Twice we've entertained the Senior Citizens at Planeview Manor, and given each member a gift which was followed by the serving of a dainty lunch. We've hosted several craft demonstrations for members and non-members.

Having a Mystery Sister had always been a yearly highlight in our club. We exchanged birthday and Christmas gifts and anniversary cards. These sisters certainly lived up to their names, and were really secretive as very few members correctly guessed theirs. The month of May was always special. Each year Mother's Day gifts with suitable cards were presented to the oldest and youngest members who qualified for the gifts in that year. Each fall we had our annual birthday party. Our husbands often accompanied us on these outings when we'd visit places of interest in and around Edmonton, go bowling or take in a show. These outings were always followed by a dinner.

There is a saying that the combination of good food and good friends always brings people closer together. This surely proved to be true at our pot luck Christmas dinners held every December at our centre. A program always followed the bounteous and most appetizing meal and the children were remembered with a bag of treats.

Since 1974 the community has received county and government grants so the centre has been enlarged and will be given a face lifting. Won't the ladies appreciate the larger and modern kitchen that is being planned!

At our 25th Anniversary in 1977 I composed a 'ditty' which I titled 'Working Side by Side'. In it I tried (hoping my fellow members felt the same way) to express just what the Willow Creek Ladies' Club had meant to me as I've made my home in Willow Creek for 43 wonderful years and have been a member of the club since its beginning.

Working Side by Side

Our club ain't had a barrel of money, Still we've been happy as a bunny, We've travelled life's road And shared many a load Working side by side.

Everything we've done we've done in unity, Be it for others or for the community, It's been a pleasure, That we can never measure Working side by side.

In all our undertakings
No matter how big or how small,
We all just pulled together,
Trying to make each job a real ball
Working side by side.

When our deeds were done and we'd have to be parted,

We'd go home gay and light-hearted, Feeling we'd done our best, And we'd stood the test, Working side by side.

In Willow Creek the smiles seemed to dwell a little longer,

And the handclasps were a little bit stronger, Our club has been one big family Making long-to-be remembered history, Working side by side.

No kidding gals, we've all grown a little older Still our love for one another has never grown colder.

Through thick and through thin, With a smile and big grin, Working side by side.

Yes, it's 25 years since this club was begun, And looking back haven't we been on the run, But I'm sure we all most emphatically agree It's been worthwhile and oh so much fun Working side by side.

THE PETER ADAMIC FAMILY

You would be amazed at the way Mr. Peter Adamic could remember people, places, names and dates. He would take people to see farms no matter where they were.

In 1900 Mrs. Adamic, 'Peter's mother, came to Canada with her family, as her husband had died in the war. They came from a city, Lazu, then Austria, now Ukraine. She came by ship to Halifax and then across the country to Leduc. She came to Leduc with her three sons, to her daughter Mrs. Mike Terlesky, as her daughter had arrived earlier. Peter Adamic was still in the army and could not come with the family.

Certificate of Marriage				
This Certifies That				
Peter Adamic b.1876 and Thecla-Clara Popyk b.1888.				
were united in				
Holy Matrimony				
According to the Rite of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church of Canada and in conformity				
with the Laws of the Province of Alberta				
In Holy Trinity Church, at Rabbit Hill, Leduc, Alberta				
on the 8th day of January 1907				
The Rev. S. Dydyk O.S.B.M. officiating				
Wasyl Melnyk				
Witnesses o Andrey Menczak				
as appears from the Marriage Register of this Church.				
Jasued at st Josaphat's Cathedral, Edmonton				
Date Edmonton, October 30th 1952				
By Ren Joa Jean				

In 1904, Peter Adamic came to Halifax and then to his mother's at Leduc. After a while, Peter went to Calgary to work on the railroad. When he came back to Leduc, he met and married Clara Popik, daughter of Mr. Mike Popik, (who came from the same city, Lazu in Austria, with her family). The Popik family also came to Leduc. Peter and Clara were married in Edmonton.

They went to Leduc and then on to a homestead in the Wizard Lake district which was the original Molin farm. They worked the land for about five years and had two children, Katherine and William, born there. After the homestead, they bought a farm northwest of Buford and lived there for a few years. There were a few buildings on the farm. Peter had two horses, a wagon, a walking plow, and a cow or two. They prospered on this farm for awhile. Shortly after, the family moved to Edmonton where Mr. Adamic worked for a while in the city of Edmonton, as well as in a coal mine. While living in Edmonton, Mr. Adamic helped to build the High Level Bridge that spans the North Saskatchewan River. One daughter, Julia, and one son, Steve, were born in the city. When the war started, Peter Adamic and his family returned to the farm, two more children, Sam and Alex, were born. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Adamic had eleven grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

The first house which was built on the farm

consisted of four rooms and an upstairs with minor furnishings. When the coal mines were operating, the family heated their home with coal. The Adamic family dug the coal from the Strawberry Creek coal mine.

The daily chores, which the children participated in, were looking after the livestock which consisted of cows, pigs, horses, and chickens. The clothes were washed in galvanized tubs with a glass or wooden washboard and rubbed by hand. To make the clothes whiter, this was done with some soap and lye. The soap was made from the fat of pigs, and lye was put into the fat and then boiled for awhile and then cooked. The soap was cut or shredded to make soap powder.

Sewing was done by hand or by a treadle sewing machine which you had to paddle with your feet. Cooking was done on a stove that was heated by wood or coal. These stoves also had an oven and some stoves had a warmer at the top of them to keep food warm.

Shopping was done in Buford, which is now Glen Park. The store was owned and operated by L.O. Anderson. Later the family did their shopping in Thorsby. It was either carried on the back or was delivered by a wagon and horses.

Social entertainment was visiting neighbors and friends. They would also have people gather for special occasions such as weddings, christenings, and dances. They sang songs and played instruments. They

had people over like Dan Babiak, who could play an instrument, to entertain people. Other people were John Powlick and Joe Babiak. The Adamic family also went to church picnics. They also attended church which was held in the morning, and some afternoons the church would hold a big dinner. Then after dinner, everyone played bingo. Mr. Adamic always read books and magazines in the Ukrainian language, especially the Bible. No one worked on Sunday, as it was considered a sin to work on a holy day, or a Ukrainian holiday.

The children walked to Willow Creek school which was about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles away. There were two rooms; one room was for the elementary children and one for the higher grades. The grades that were taught in this school were grades 1 to 8. The teachers were, Mr. Rogers and Miss Marion Phillips who taught during W.W.I, then Mrs. Eric Dixon and Mrs. Wilfred Dixon. Strapping was used for punishment for children in those days.

Peter Adamic belonged to the St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Church in Thorsby. A long time ago, the church was located 3½ miles east of Thorsby on a farm owned by Paul Adamic. Mr. Adamic helped to build the church with other families that belonged to the church. He served the preacher as altar boy (palamar). The service was held once a month with special services such as Christmas and Easter or some Ukrainian holiday also held.

The farm was located five miles east of Thorsby. The first building was a log house, then later a lean-to was built on to it and siding was put on. The siding resembled shingles. Peter Adamic built the house himself with some neighbors and friends to help. A permit was obtained from the government to cut logs. This was done west of Thorsby and cut by Louie and Fred Mudry who had a lumber mill in the Morrowdale district.

The first well was dug by hand with shovels till they struck water, then they put wooden cribbing in the well. Getting the water from the well was done by a pail and rope with a brace to hold the pulley. They let the pail down on the pulley and then pulled the water up in the pail.

The first crops were planted and in the fall were reaped by hand using a scythe. The first crops were not much, as farming was still in a limited state because of the small acreage cleared. The grain was dried and then threshed with a whip and strained by the wind. When more land was grubbed and plowed by a walking plow and four horses, a disc and wooden harrows were used. In harvest time the binder was used. It cut the grain and bundled it into stooks to dry. After the stooks were dry, they were threshed by a threshing machine. The Eric Westlunds had a threshing machine. Of the little grain there was, some was sold and some was traded for flour. Leduc was the closest elevator to haul grain to for miles and miles around. The hay was cut by mower and left to dry, then it was raked by a hay rake and put into stacks. The

first tractor was a Hider, followed by the Avery, and then a Rock Island. Then Mr. Adamic bought a threshing machine. The first car was a Model T Ford followed by a Buick. They farmed 320 acres of land and had a full line of machinery.

The livestock that the Adamic family raised was horses, cows, pigs, and chickens. The horses were used to work the land and the cows were used for milk and butter. The butter was made by separating the cream from the milk then churning it. The butter was cut and wrapped into one-pound loaves and then sold to Mr. L. O. Anderson. When Calmar was built, the farmers took their cream to the creamery located there. They put it in six or eight gallon cream cans. The price was about 5 cents to 20 cents per pound of butter fat. They used to sell or trade rabbit skins at 10 cents a skin and a dozen eggs brought a package of tobacco with papers or a bottle of oil to grease the binder.

The roads were just trails made through the land, no matter how far a person had to go.

The children helped on the farm no matter how small or young they were. The children had to pitch in with the chores. (Sometimes hired help was needed to grub the land and the wages were small.) After walking home from school they had to walk into the bush for the cows. They knew the tone of each bell and when the cows saw the children or one child, they would leave the other cattle and turn towards home. Winter work was away from home which was mostly to the west, to cut logs and haul the logs to the nearest sawmill to be made into lumber.

The special memory of summer was going by wagon and horses to Pigeon Lake. In the winter they enjoyed the big snow drifts that blocked roads which children could roll or walk on. There used to be blizzards in the winter and hail storms in the summer. There also were dry years and many years that had brush fires.

There were no organizations as people were scarce and they only believed in going to church.

Most of Mr. Adamic's young days were spent farming and working on the roads in the district. Covering mud holes that were a couple of feet deep, and other work was part of his job working on the roads. They used scrapers that were pulled by two horses. The scrapers had two handles so that the person had to hang on and steer the horses at the same time to fill the scrapers, then he had to drag the soil and upset the scraper to fill the hole. Peter Adamic was foreman for A.E. Falkoner and William Rye when they were councillors.

The Adamic home was a place where people came to stay over night and people from the old country came to stay for awhile. Mrs. Adamic's father, Mike Popik, lived on their yard in a small house and lived to be 100 years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Adamic accomplished some honour when Stuart Adamic, one of their grandchildren, graduated from Computer Science at the University of Alberta. Other grandchildren: Marilyn Buchan,



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Adamic & first Granddaughter Doreen Adamic.

graduated from occupational therapy, and Phyllis Adamic finished university in the Faculty of Education majoring in early childhood education. Some of Mr. Adamic's great-grandchildren are still attending university, like Carol Yanish who is majoring in Business Education.

In 1947 they retired and moved into Thorsby where they purchased a home. They lived in that home until 1952 when Mr. Adamic passed away. Mrs. Adamic resided there with her son, Sam. When illness overtook her, she spent a few years of her life in Blunt's Nursing Home in Leduc. She died at home on January 26, 1975 at the age of 86. Her son Steve died in 1961 and her daughter Katherine passed away on January 30, 1975. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Adamic didn't get a chance to celebrate their golden wedding or diamond anniversary as Mr. Adamic passed away too soon.

It was a long and treacherous life with cowtrails as roads. They watched the growth of Alberta and considered it to be a province of milk and honey. A land of great promise.

THE STEVE ADAMIC STORY

Steve was the second son born to Peter and Teklia Adamic on January 3, 1912. He spent his boyhood years on the family farm in the Buford district some 5½ miles east of Thorsby. Steve attended Willow Creek School for all of his education. It is believed Mrs. Eric Dixon had a part in the education of most of the Adamic boys.

On August 11, 1938 Steve married Elsie Anastasia Chimera, daughter of Mike and Rose Chimera of the Wilton Park district. They settled on the Peter Adamic farm for a short time and their first child, a daughter (Gwenneth Rose) was born the following year. Shortly

thereafter, they moved to Edmonton where Steve operated a service station on 99th street of South Edmonton. From Edmonton, they moved to Pickardville, Alberta where they farmed until moving to the hamlet of Buford in 1941. Steve and Elsie owned approximately 45 acres of land on the east corner of Buford and it was here they built their first 2½ room home. This acreage, for the most part, is still owned by the couple's children. While living in Buford, their second daughter (Patricia Joan), and their first son (Richard Steven) were born.

In 1944, Steve went into the livestock trucking business, which later extended into gravel and lumber trucking. During the Leduc oil discovery, he also operated oilfield trucking services. In 1951, Steve became employed as a school bus driver for the County of Leduc, driving the Buford-Wilton Park-Calmar route.

The family moved to the village of Thorsby in 1951, where Steve had built a new house. Here their second son, John Douglas, was born. Steve continued to work as a bus driver until approximately 1959. He was 49 years of age at the time of his death on March 28, 1961. His widow, Elsie, continued to make her home in Thorsby until the time of her death at the age of 55, on January 15, 1973. Steve and Elsie were both members of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, and are buried in the family plot in the church cemetery.

Their daughter Gwen married Marvin Zingle, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Zingle of the Thorsby district. They have a daughter Kellie Lisa, and a son Jeffrey Steven and reside in Edmonton. Patricia married Stephen Mullen, son of Rev. and Mrs. E. Mullen of Calgary, and they have four sons: Trenton, Michael, Christopher and Jaye, and reside in O'Leary, P.E.I. Richard married Brenda French, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lyall French of Eckville, and they have two daughters, Lesly and Colleen, and reside in Cairo, Egypt. John resides in Vancouver, and at present is unmarried.

THE LIFE OF WILLIAM AND ALICE ADAMIC

The Adamic story illustrates how, as new pioneers, they were no different in courage, resourcefulness, and humor than the first hardy souls who settled this area. Both William and Alice (nee Poholka) were from the Thorsby district and from families of homesteaders. Their love of the land destined them to establish their roots in the fertile land some $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Thorsby.

William was born into the Peter and Clara Adamic family, April 26th, 1909 in the Wizard Lake district, and is the oldest of the 4 boys. Alice was born to Mike and Anastasia Poholka, April 14th, 1917. She is the fourth child of the family and was born on the farm



Wood was cut and split and piled for winter. Alice Adamic and Stella Starowshalski,

which her brother (Steve) now farms.

William attended Willow Creek school which was 3½ miles away. The school consisted of 2 rooms. The grades went up to grade 8. Departmental exams (which came from the Dept. of Education) were written after a child finished grade 8. Strapping was used by the teachers for punishment, or you had to stand in the corner. Sometimes the children had to stay after school if they misbehaved in class. William finished grade 6 as he was the oldest son and had to work on the farm. For 6 years Alice attended Kulm school which was 4 miles away from home. Her father than bought another farm west of the home place, and she attended the Weed Creek School which was 21/2 miles away. In grade 7 there were quite a few pupils. When she got to the eighth grade, Alice found it quite hard and lonesome as she was the only student and there was no competition. She graduated from grade 8 after writing Departmental Exams. If a student wanted to advance his or her education, they would have had to go to Edmonton. Mr. John Symyrozum was the teacher at Weed Creek for quite a few years (from 1929 to 1939).

In his younger days, when he was about 20, William worked for the Mudry Lumber Company. He hauled lumber for them from the sawmill (which was 3 miles west of Alsike) all the way to Leduc where the Mudry's owned and operated a lumber yard. The wages they paid were roughly \$25.00 per month with board. The truck that was used was a Diamond T. two-ton (about a 1928 model). After working there a year, William went back to farming his own land with his father, and met and married Alice Poholka. They were married on Nov. 14, 1935. This union resulted in 3 daughters: Joyce, who died in infancy, Doreen

(Mrs. Larry Yanish) and Phyllis, still living at home. William and Alice have 4 granddaughters: Carol, Donna, Lori, and Cheryl Yanish, to complete the family tree at present.

Upon marriage, William became a full time farmer (5 miles east of Thorsby). The farming enterprise received a significant boost when Alice's parents presented them with a wedding gift which consisted of 5 cows, 1 sow, 2 horses and some chickens. The house that is located on the farm (at present) was built by William and Alice with their own hands. He put up his own buildings as best he could with help from his father-in-law, Mike Poholka. Lumber came from the Thorsby Lumber Yard and some from Calmar. The first home built on the farm had 3 rooms. The furniture was bought second-hand after they were married. The stove was fueled by wood as well as coal. After awhile, an oil heater was installed to warm the house, especially during winter months. Before Calgary Power was installed into the house, it was lit by coal-oil lamps (kerosene), and later, lights were powered by a 32 volt Delco Plant. The first well was dug by hand with a shovel and wooden cribbing was put in. A few years later a well with a pump and windmill was drilled by Victor Sandstrom and is still standing today. When Calgary Power was installed, an electric motor was put onto a pump jack to pump water.

Washing was done first by hand with a tub and a glass washboard. The white clothes were bleached by cooking the clothes in a copper boiler with soap and lye. Next came a washing machine run by a gas motor. After Calgary Power was installed, most of the appliances were run by electrical power.

In William and Alice's younger days, the entertainment was to go to dances. The dances were held at the Ukrainian Hall which was 3 miles east of Thorsby (on the Paul Adamic farm which is now owned by Steve Pyrch). This hall, along with the church, was later moved to the present location in Thorsby. William and Alice had to walk, as there was no other transportation. After they were married, life was easier, as they went to shows in Thorsby which were run by the late Mr. John Powlick. Usually this was a Saturday night treat for them and their children.

The land was farmed for awhile with horses the same as our parents farmed. Then William got a Wallis tractor with a plow which was a great help. In the war years, William got another tractor (a 22 Massey Harris) with a two-bottom plow on rubber tires. That was a great joy as the tractor was used as transportation until he got a Chev half-ton truck. The hay was cut with a mower and was left to dry, then raked into windrows and piles. It was then hauled to the stack with a wagon and hayracks pulled by horses. The grain was cut first by a binder and horses, but later it was cut with a binder and a tractor, and then stooked. When the grain was dry, William got the Nick Zingle and Mike Poholka threshing crew to thresh the grain from the stooks. The grain was hauled to the granaries and some of it was sold. Some of the grain was also fed to

the cattle, hogs, chickens and turkeys. When Mr. Adamic purchased a one-ton truck, he hauled milk for the farmers; first to the Glen Park Cheese Factory and then to the Thorsby Cheese Factory (after the cheese factory at Glen Park burned down). After a while William got another tractor which was a Case model, and a full line of machinery. Then he purchased a Massey Ferguson 44 tractor. They raised quite a few turkeys for a few years. Some years the amount of turkeys raised was 1000 at a time. In 1958 the William Adamic's got hailed out completely and the turkeys were badly beaten by the hail, so they didn't accomplish much.

William then worked a while in Buford until the elevator burned down, and after that job he worked for an oil pipe line company in Calmar. From there, he went to work for the City of Edmonton Waterworks Department. In 1959 he moved to the City of Edmonton with his family and rented a place for several years. Then in 1965 they purchased a house in



Wm. & Alice Adamic

Edmonton and worked and farmed until 1974 when William suffered a heart attack. He had one more year to work before he was pensioned off. At the age of 65 he was pensioned from the City of Edmonton Waterworks Department.

The Adamic family are members of the Ukranian Orthodox Church in Thorsby. The services are performed there once a month and on special holidays.

Thorsby is a well organized community to live happily in, with neighbors and friends in peace and harmony, regardless of what nationality you are. No matter where one lives, the place where you were born is always home to you.



THE ADOLF ANKERSTEIN FAMILY

by Rinold Ankerstein

Adolf Ankerstein immigrated to Canada in 1911, leaving behind his family in Wolhynia, Russia. In 1912 he married Martha Rinas and started his life in farming. Before settling in the Willow Creek district, he rented some land just west of Calmar. When he moved to his own farm, the NE 8-49-27-W4 (which is now owned and farmed by his youngest son, Albert) it was all bush. However with real determination, he cleared the whole quarter section and in 1928 built the home that is still located there and occupied by Albert and his family.



Adolph and Martha Ankerstein about 1946.

The Ankerstein family consisted of 7 sons and 1 daughter, the daughter dying from severe burns at an early age. Adolf Ankerstein was known for his veterinary services that he performed for many of his neighbors and friends, often being called on at late hours of the night. In those days a "thank you" or a fee of \$1.00 usually paid for his services. He also spoke 7 different languages, which helped him to converse with many people. Many of the old timers would perhaps recall the stud services he offered to the surrounding district. He, at one time, had 3 different breeds of stallions and supplied the district with some of the finest horse power.

Adolf Ankerstein was one of the first to grow alfalfa in his district and he also owned the first Ford-Ferguson tractor with hydraulic lift implements. He took great pride in raising hogs and always kept a fair amount.

He passed away in Jan., 1963 at the age of 77 years. His wife predeceased him in 1949 at the age of 57 years.

Ewalt, the eldest son, who farmed near Pigeon Lake, passed away in 1975 at the age of 63 years. He was married to Jean Petuh and had 2 children; Martha (Mrs. Aaron Eklund) and Donald.

Herman, the second eldest son, married Freida Meckle. They have 5 children; Eileen, Iona, Leslie, Nathan and Kenneth. Herman now resides in Calmar. At one time he was engaged in veterinary work just like his father.

Louie married Daphne Evanson and has 4 children; Willard, Alice, Harvey and Allan. He now



Granddaughter Susan, husband Dennis Sekora, Great grandchildren Korbin and Shelan

resides at Buck Lake.

William (Willie) married Delia Knull. They have 4 daughters; Lorrie (Mrs. Gordon Swanson) Shirley, Debbie and Connie.

Henry married Martha Lorentz. They reside in Calmar and have one chosen son, Robert.

Rinold married Olive Beck and has 4 children; Lorne, Susan (Mrs. Dennis Sekora), Clare and Donna. His wife, Olive, passed away in 1966. In 1969 he married Pierrette Lemire (nee Desharnais).

Albert, the youngest son married Aline Gascon. They have 4 children; Roger, Timmy, Wayne and Sharon.

William, Rinold and Albert are still engaged in farming in the Willow Creek district.

STORY OF NICK AND MARY BABIAK

by their daughter Myrna Popik

In 1903, Nick and Mary Babiak left the Ukraine for Canada in search of a better life. It took them 3 weeks to cross the ocean to reach Halifax. From there they travelled by train, stopping in Winnipeg, Calgary and finally Strathcona (South Edmonton). They left their homeland in Mar., at seeding time. When they arrived here, they were greeted by a wilderness covered with 2 feet of snow. They couldn't speak or understand a word of English. Interpreters at the Immigration Office helped them communicate.

They stayed with the Poholko's in the Rabbit Hill area for a year. Then moved into an abandoned shack some 20 miles farther west and south. The first post office in that area was on the Westlin farm, 2 miles east of where they stayed. One Sunday Mary walked to the post office. There she talked with Fred Adamic, who told her about a homestead that was available just 1½ miles northeast of the post office in the Buford district, as it is now known. She hurried home to tell her husband about it. That same afternoon he set out

on foot for Leduc, some 24 miles away. He walked all night along Indian Trails and reached Leduc some time next morning. He filed his claim, and on Dec. 9, 1904, became the owner of N.E. 18-49-27 W4 for a fee of \$10.00.

They had to clear land before they could build their first house, which was only a small log cabin with a sod roof. When the heavy rains came water would drip into the cabin, making it very uncomfortable. They covered the bed with oilcloth to keep their hay-filled mattress dry.

The winters were more severe and lasted longer than those in more recent times. Summer frosts were always to be expected. Scarcity of food and money made life almost unbearable. Perhaps at this point they doubted their decision to come to Canada, but the pioneer homesteaders had the stamina, determination and faith to struggle on.

Then came the back-breaking job of clearing land with an axe and grub hoe. It was cleared in small patches and plowed with an ox and cow. Later horses were used. Dynamite was used to blow out the big stumps. The first crop grown was mainly oats. It was cut by hand with a sickle or scythe, tied into bundles and stacked. This attracted many rabbits which became the main diet of the family.

Bears made frequent visits. On occasion one would look through the lone window but fortunately made no attempt to harm the family. However, some calves and pigs were eaten. One old bear was quite vicious. He did a lot of damage to the settlers. One farmer shot at him but did not kill him. A few men trailed him to the edge of Wizard Lake, where they watched him put mud packs on his wounds with his huge paw. It was here they ended his days of adventure. In the tall grasses it was common to see garter snakes. There were millions of mosquitoes too. At milking time, smudges were made to give the cattle and humans some relief from those pesty insects.

There were no roads, only winding trails and mud holes through the bushes. One such trail led through Nick's yard. Here the early settlers from farther west would stop overnight to rest themselves and their horses, on the long road to Leduc. They were always welcome, partaking of the hospitality of Nick and Mary who always shared what little they had with other settlers in the same circumstances.

Like many others, Nick went to work for the C.P.R. and in the coal mines to earn some money. His wife was left behind with the children to look after the farm and stock. There were no fences, so the cattle would sometimes stray far away. Whenever Mary went to fetch them, she would lock the door to keep the children safe from bears and from wandering off into the bushes and getting lost.

As time went on, more land was cleared and more buildings were built. Lumber became available from nearby sawmills. In 1912, Nick built a large frame house for his family which had increased in size. Now that there was more land, a binder and horses were

used to cut the grain. Threshing machines made their appearance, but the farmers had to wait their turn till the threshing crew could get around to thresh their grain, sometimes as late as Christmas.

By now wheat was also grown. Nick took some of the wheat and travelled 40 miles to Strathcona with horses and sleigh, to have it ground into flour and cream of wheat cereal for breakfast. By hand, Mary sewed the flour sacks into clothes for the children, dish towels, aprons and sheets.

Their land was very productive. Mary always had a beautiful garden. They had potatoes, garden vegetables and a big barrel of sauerkraut. Prairie chickens, partridges and wild berries were also plentiful. A root cellar was made to store the root crops. Peas and beans were dried. Cranberries were made into jelly.

They had a small apiary which supplied the family with all the honey they could use as well as some to sell. In a sheltered spot in the garden, they had apple trees, crabapples, currants and a large patch of luscious strawberries.

The children all had chores to do. The girls helped with the milking, the chickens and housework. The women in those days baked their own bread, churned the butter and made soap. The older boys stayed home from school in the spring to help put in the crop and again in the fall to help take it off. They sawed wood by hand and cut willow posts, which were hauled to Leduc to exchange for the many items necessary on the farm. In the winter they snared rabbits and trapped weasels. From the money for the skins they bought school supplies and some clothes. In the summer they helped clear more land and pick roots. All the children attended Willow Creek School, 2 miles away. They walked along bush trails. In the winter it was deep snow and sub-zero temperatures. Frozen feet and fingers were a common complaint. In the spring it was mud puddles everywhere.

Nick was one of the privileged few who learned to read and write in his homeland. He became an ardent reader and acquired a large collection of good books, history and geography being his specialty. He was a carpenter and built his own buildings with the help of the good neighbors. He was also a blacksmith and sharpened plow shares for his neighbors and shod their horses. Nick made a wooden lathe on which he turned out fancy carved legs for the table, chairs and other furniture he made. This lathe was later bought by Earl Erickson, who now resides in Kelowna, B.C. and still uses it to turn out rolling pins. The iron cross on top of the Greek Orthodox Church in Thorsby was made by Nick.

Nick and Mary had 9 children; 6 boys and 3 girls. Their children moved to different parts of Alberta, B.C. and United States. At the time of writing they are all living. Nick passed away in 1948 at the age of 73, and Mary passed away in 1958 at the age of 84.

And indeed they did find a much better life here in Alberta. The struggles were great, but the rewards

were greater. They were proud of their accomplishments and proud to be citizens of this great land.

WALTER ROBERT BLAZENKO

In 1928, Walter's three sisters sent him a ticket to come to Canada. He left his home in Dzrwyn, Ukraine in August and travelled by train to Danzig, Poland where he boarded the ship Estonia. He landed in Halifax, N.S. on November 5, and then boarded a train for Leduc.



Mr. & Mrs. Walter Blazenko (nee Pearl Terlesky) April 16, 1942.



Morley & Cyndy Blazenko



Trudy Blazenko age 12 years.



Tracy Blazenko age 7 years.



Kelly Blazenko age 6 years.



Sally (nee Blazenko), Jim & Brent Runnett - 1974.

He began to work for the CPR in 1936. In 1942 he married Pearl Terlesky; they lived in the hamlet of Buford.

In 1943 Walter was called to the army. He took his basic training in Grande Prairie, and then was shipped to Nova Scotia for further training. It was in Nova Scotia that he joined the Cape Breton Highlanders for overseas reinforcement duty. He arrived in England on New Year's Day, 1944. He first saw action at Ortona, Italy, and was wounded in Italy. The Cape Breton Highlanders arrived back in Canada in January, 1946 but Walter was the only Westerner, so he didn't arrive home until February 8, 1946.

Walter returned to work for the CPR and was with them until his retirement in 1973. In July, 1947 he moved from Buford to Blackfalds and was there until 1954, then he lived in Halkirk from Sept. 1954 to July, 1955. He returned to Buford in 1955, where he stayed until 1957. He then moved to Edmonton where he and his wife Pearl still live today.

Walter had one son, Morley, who is married and has three daughters and at present lives in Calmar, and one daughter, Sally Anne, who is also married, has one son, and lives in Calgary.

THE PETER DALQUIST FAMILY

by Allan Phillips

Born in Sweden, Peter Dalquist arrived in 1894

along with C.J. Blomquist, and they blazed the trail from 6 miles west of Leduc to what is now Calmar. They worked together, each building a log house preparing for their families who were to come later. Mrs. Blomquist arrived a little while before Mrs. Dalquist. She had 1 son, Jack. Mrs. Dalquist arrived in June, 1895 with a family of 4 girls, the eldest 10 years



Peter E. Dalquist and family 1892.

and a baby one year old. There were 2 sons, Charlie and August, (Gust), who remained in North Dakota until 1905 when Gust arrived in Alberta, owing to drought in N.D. for many years. There was nothing there to stay for, and money was almost nil — barely enough to bring the family to Alberta.

It was a long weary ride on the train, the seats were bare and made of slats; there was a stove on the coach where Mrs. Dalquist prepared food for the children and herself. When they arrived in Leduc, they were met by Mr. Blomquist who had a team and wagon, and took them to their home then on to their own log house next day.

They lived there 1 year when Mrs. Dalquist passed away with cancer of the breast. There was no medical aid to be had; a coffin was made of a few pieces of lumber a neighbor had, and it was painted with water and soot from stove pipes and stove-lids made into a paste. There was no minister present, so a friend, Mr. Van Meter from Millet, conducted the funeral service and his 2 daughters sang a hymn. Mother was laid to rest in a grave on the homestead and later moved to what is now Calmar Cemetery.

It was a struggle to look after the young family, even with the help of Christine Dalquist who was 11 years old. Mr. Dalquist had brought some sheep skins which he tanned and were cut out as a dress and sewn, which daughter Mary wore to school for 2 years. He also had a sheep skin he traded for fish with Indians at Pigeon Lake, and with the rabbits he snared and the fish, they managed to survive. Rabbits in those days were plentiful. He also made warm gauntlets from skins and traded them for flour, carrying 100 lbs. of flour on his shoulders for 7 miles. He finally managed to buy a team of horses and would drive the 14 miles to Leduc over trails to get groceries.

Taxes in those days were paid by working on road allowances instead of having to pay cash.

Mr. Dalquist passed away on Jan 7th, 1914. Two daughters survive, Mrs. E. Lindberg in Maple Ridge, B.C., and Mrs. T. Weeks in Edmonton.

ERIC DIXON HISTORY

contributed by Mrs. E. Dixon

My husband Eric bought a quarter section of land 2 miles south of Willow Creek School in 1922 for \$2800.00 from the Hudson Bay Co. I was Agnes Sandstrom, and a school teacher, when we were married in 1923. I had taught in Riverford before coming to teach at Willow Creek.



This was a good sized load in 1923.



The Dixon's stooking their oats.

Eric worked hard with only an axe as the main tool to clear land so he could grow grain. I supplemented his income by teaching and that was hard work too but also rewarding, because many of my students became doctors, teachers, nurses, mechanics and successful farmers.

For entertainment the highlight of the year was the Christmas concert. The students, after practising for 2 months, never failed to delight a packed audience with their plays, drills, songs and choruses.

There were no paved or gravelled roads so transportation was often difficult. Once, the bigger boys had to help the school inspector get his car out of a snow drift. Drilled wells became a necessity in the 1930s and Eric Westlund made his own outfit and drilled many wells in the district, most of them were 300 feet deep.

I taught one fall term at Progress school and also at

Conjuring Creek.

Our daughter Dianne was born while we lived on the farm at Willow Creek. We lived through the depression but suffered no ill effects since the farm supplied us with most of the food. The community spirit was much in evidence as help always came when needed. Our neighbors harvested our crop one year when my husband was in hospital. In the 1920s Eric and his brothers organized a dance band which was much in demand. Each musician was paid \$3.00 for a dance which lasted from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. It was known as Dixon's Orchestra.

We lived on that farm until 1948 when we moved to Calmar. I taught in Calmar school for 10 years and then served as a substitute teacher for another 10 years. After that we moved into Edmonton and have since made our home there.

In 1978 there are very few pioneers left in the Willow Creek area. The school now serves as a community centre but I shall always recall the good community spirit that was shown during the depression years.

Our daughter Dianne Horn lives in Edmonton and not far from me. My husband Eric passed away in 1971

CLARENCE AND LIZ EKSTROM

We bought the farm, $S\frac{1}{2}$ 20-49-27-W4 from Dad (Oscar Ekstrom) in 1969. It is located just south of the hamlet of Buford in the Willow Creek District.

Clarence grew up on this same farm with his 3 sisters and 3 brothers and attended Willow Creek and Calmar Schools.

Besides farming with his dad and brothers, Clarence worked in the oil industry and hauled gravel for the County of Leduc before farming became a full-time operation.

In 1967, Clarence and I (the former Liz Horvath from St. Francis) married. At the time of writing, we have 3 girls — Sheila, Candace and Michelle. Clarence and I are active in the Willow Creek Community Association. Clarence started a Fastball Club at Willow Creek. I started a Ladies Fastball Club as well, which has led to an annual Willow Creek Sports Day.



Clarence & Liz Ekstrom, Sheila, Candace, and Michelle.

OLAF EKSTROM FAMILY

by his Family

Father, Olaf Ekstrom, was born in Dalarna, Sweden in 1863 and when he was 18 years old he emigrated to Minnesota where he spent the next 10 years working on farms and in the woods, cutting ties and lumber, and for a time working at the stock yards in Chicago. He returned to Sweden where he spent the next 10 years and married Mother, Kerstin Person, in March 1903. That June, Andrew Kvarnberg and Dad decided to come to Canada. Mother always thought it was strange that he chose Canada because he had become a citizen of the U.S.A. when in that country.



Back Row: (L. to R.): Andrew Ekstrom, Ole Hallan, Alice Hallan, Mr. Senft, Shirley Ekstrom, Mrs. Larson, Mr. Larson, El Pearson, Bob Hale. Front Row: (L. to R.): Gladys Ekstrom, Grandma Ekstrom, Mrs. Senft, Mrs. Hale, Mrs. El Pearson.

The two of them took the train to Wetaskiwin and walked west to Falun, then on until they finally ended up 4 miles west and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Calmar. Mr. Kvarnberg filed on a homestead 1 mile west of this place. Dad bought the NW 21-49-27 W4, which was C.P.R. land, for \$3.00 per acre. The S.W. corner of this land is part of the yard on which the Willow Creek school was later built and is now a Community Centre.

He broke 3 acres the first year and 10 acres the following year. He worked on the railroad and at a cement factory near Banff and earned enough money to send for Mother and Andrew in 1906. When they arrived they lived in a small shack across the road while our house was being built. This house measured 16 ft. by 16 ft. and was one large room with an upstairs the same size, where we kids slept. This house still stands with an addition built on in 1925 and is now the home of Andrew's eldest son Douglas and his family.

The only roads were trails through the woods and one such trail went through our farm yard. Wherever we went there were always gates to be opened and closed. Our first mode of transportation was by oxen and wagon and with Leduc being the nearest trading post, it meant a long day's journey. When it was real hard going, a night would be spent at Jehn's stopping house which was 5 miles west of Leduc.

Once when Dad was coming home with supplies

he was crossing the swollen creek near home. The oxen refused to move until they had a drink of water and in the meantime the wagon sank deep into the muck. When the oxen couldn't pull it out Dad carried the flour and other supplies to the bank of the creek to lighten the load.

All the children were born at home with the neighboring ladies acting as midwives.

Loneliness must have been a factor in those early years, especially for the women. Dad always spent the winter months away from home to supplement the income which meant that Mother was alone with the children and livestock. One winter there was a shortage of water so she had to melt snow for the house as well as the animals.

The winter of 1910, Dad worked on the dam that Calgary Power was building west of Calgary. When spring came the contractor for whom they worked disappeared with the payroll so all he got for his work was a ticket home.

In 1907 he filed on the homestead 1 mile west which is now a part of the town site of Buford. In 1928 the quarter section of land across the road was purchased.

In 1927 we bought a steam engine and threshing machine. Besides our own work we did custom threshing for neighbors. The Westlunds and Lindbergs had these outfits before and did our



Olaf Ekstrom Family, 1926. Back Row: (L. to R.): Oscar, Jennie, Andrew. Front Row: Alice, Dad, Stanley, Mother, & Selma.

threshing. In 1930 sparks from the engine set fire to 2 stacks of wheat belonging to a farmer we threshed for. The ground was so soft the engine couldn't move so the stacks and the separator were burned. It cost us \$300.00 for each stack besides the loss of the separator. In the 1930's, when stook threshing, we had 8 men each with a team of horses and hay rack hauling bundles to the machine. As well there were the engineer, separator man, water hauler, at least 2 men helping to pitch the bundles, and 2 men hauling the grain. For the women, it meant endless hours cooking



On Steam Engine.
Sitting: Steve Wurban. Standing:
Nels Munk. In Foreground: L. to
R.: Arnie Westlund, Allan
Hanson, Fritz Larson, Stury
Mortinson, Albin Markstedt, Ole
Gulbranson.

and baking over a hot wood-and-coal stove. We had 18 cows that we milked by hand and pastured them $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from home.

We threshed wheat for 5¢, barley for 4¢, and oats for 3¢. The men earned \$1.50 per day and the girls were lucky if they got \$8.00 per month.

During the winters we spent a good deal of time cutting logs for lumber, cord wood for the steam engine as well as a good supply of wood to heat the house. We built bonfires in the woods to heat our coffee and thaw out our sandwiches. We would go west to the Strawberry creek and dig out a sleigh load of coal in one day. We also hauled gravel from the Saskatchewan river in the winter which meant a long hard day with a pick and shovel. We always took 2 sleighs and 2 teams so we could put 4 horses on one sleigh coming up the steep grade with a load.

Being a lot of open land around, we spent many a day rounding per cattle. One night shortly after the folks moved on the place, Dad went outside and amidst the noise of the coyotes howling, heard some moaning. By lantern light he traced the noise down the road and found a bruised Mr. Mucha who kept repeating "Horses runaway - Wagon broke".

When there were any cattle to be sold Dad tied one cow behind the wagon and the rest would follow with one of us riding horseback behind to keep them going.

The highlight of their social world was the spinning bees. The ladies all gathered at each others homes and brought their carders and some spinning wheels. They started early in the morning and only stopped working long enough for lunch. The men always helped each other with barn raising and wood sawing. There were berry-picking excursions in summer as wild fruit was plentiful. This was a highlight in our young lives as we took lunch and made a picnic out of it.

Our earliest memories as we were going to sleep included the 'whirr' of the spinning wheel which Mother had brought with her from Sweden. If she wasn't spinning in the evenings she would be reading out loud from the Swedish papers while she knit, by the light of the coal oil lamp. Mother sewed ticking together which was filled with hay and these served as mattresses. When spring came and the weather

warmed up, how happy we were to sleep up in the hayloft of the barn.

When Alice was 4 years old she was lost in the woods and with the help of all the neighbors, was finally found by the Terlesky's.

In July 1915 the 5th child, Henry who was 3 ½ years old, drowned in the creek near the barn. Dad passed away in 1932, Mother in 1957, Jenny in 1976, and Andrew in 1977.

Andrew lived on the home place until he retired when he moved to Thorsby 2 years before his death. He married Gladys Kay and together brought up 6 children, all of whom live in the vicinity with the exception of 1 daughter who lives in Vancouver.

Oscar married Margaret Mollison and together built a home on the homestead. They farmed in partnership with Gladys and Andrew until they retired to Leduc in 1969. They had 7 children; the youngest son Barry drowned while working in the North West Territories at the age of 17 years. One son Clarence lives on their homeplace and together with Andrew's son Douglas, farms the land. Their other children all live on farms in the vicinity.

Stanley lives in Wembley, Alberta and had 8 children. Jenny's 2 daughters live in B.C. Selma lives in Warburg and her daughter in Wanham, her one son at Cold Lake, and her other son in Leduc. Alice lives in Leduc and her daughter at Spruce Grove and son in Calgary.

THE OSCAR EKSTROM FAMILY

by Margaret Ekstrom

In June, 1938, Oscar and I were married and then left for the coast with his sister and brother-in-law, Alice and Ole Hallan. That trip in Alex's Model-A Ford was one to remember. Those narrow gravelled roads through the mountains were so high and scarey—especially driving over those long bridges hanging like shelves on the mountain cliffs, near Hope, B.C. When the car radiator would start boiling, we'd have to stop to let it cool and add more water.



The Oscar Ekstrom Family.
L. to R. Rear: Allan, Oscar, Arlene, George. Fore: Margaret, Mom,
Barbara, Eleanor, Clarence.



Barry Ekstrom.

At Creston, B.C., we saw our first apple orchards. We rode a stern wheeler ferry boat to cross the Kootenay Lake. That was indeed an experience! At Nelson we bought Bing cherries just picked off the trees. We well remember how delicious they were. It was great driving into Vancouver, just knowing we were at the coast at last. Seeing beautiful Victoria with its quaint old English touch and the Butchart Gardens was well worth the trip.

Travelling home seemed a much shorter road but not without its qualms in those high places and those precarious-looking wooden bridges. Alberta, with its flat land, was a welcome sight once more.

We farmed at Buford until the fall of '69. Oscar had spent a number of years on the Willow Creek School Board, and as Director on the Rural Telephone Company. For several winters Oscar and Ole Hallan sawed lumber in the Genesee and Warburg districts.

The Ekstrom's owned three quarters of land at Buford. The hamlet of Buford took up a portion of that land. The railroad goes through their three quarters. I remember going to Ruth and Eddie Erickson's wedding dance in 1930 and seeing the new railroad that was just being built.

I never had the privilege of knowing Oscar's father, Olaf Ekstrom. Oscar's mother was a very industrious person. I was always fascinated to watch Grandma Ekstrom so carefully card and spin wool for hours at a time. She would read a newspaper while

knitting. Being a Swedish neighborhood, the older women would bring their spinning wheels and spin wool all day long and have a great time. The same when it was quilting time. Grandman Ekstrom always kept her family close around her. She looked forward to receiving mail from Sweden. Swedes always enjoyed their flat bread, pickled herring and lutefisk at Christmas time, All of those national dishes have become international today.

George, our eldest, was 3 years old when we moved to Buford siding, and we built our home there. Pete Miller and Alex Prishko built our barn. El Pearson and a gang of neighbors did the shingling. We had several dances in the new barn.

Our seven children grew up on the farm. Barry, the youngest boy passed away at the tender age of 17 in the N.W.T. Clarence and family live on the homeplace; George and Allan and families farm at Breton. The three girls, Eleanore, (Mrs. Nestor Dobko); Arlene, (Mrs. Garry Huber); and Barbara, (Mrs. Orville Bienert) married farmers and live close by.



Gathering at the Oscar Ekstrom Home.
L. to R. Rear: George, Grandpa Mollison, Stan & Rita Ekstrom,
Margaret Ekstrom. Front: Clarence, Sharron, Gramma Ekstrom &
Allan. Seated: Eleanore, Arlene & Carmen.

Oscar worked for oil rigs in the Leduc and Drayton Valley areas as boiler man, during the winters.

Last June, old friends, neighbors and relatives celebrated with us on our Fortieth Wedding Anniversary at the Willow Creek Community Centre, the same hall where we had our wedding dance in 1938. Our sixteen grandchildren were there also.

ANDERS AND BRITA ERICKSON

by Glenys Wronko

It was May, 1877 and the big decision had finally been made, and probably to all but two of them this decision had been a most heart-breaking one. Anders and Brita Erickson were determined to leave their home at Gagnef in Dalarna, Sweden, and go away to live in distant "Amerika."

They could see that they had little or nothing to lose by leaving their native land and possibly much to gain. Economic conditions in Sweden were deplorable and gradually getting worse, and the farms had become smaller and smaller with each generation as the land was divided again and again among numerous heirs.

Anders was now 34 years of age and Brita 26 and, although both had worked hard, there was little to show for it. Already after only a few years of marriage they had 4 children — Anna, Anders Jr., Kirsten, and Lisa. It seemed to them neither sensible nor fair to expose their children to the bleak future which awaited them should they remain in Sweden.

They sold their small parcel of land and livestock and by doing so obtained enough money to purchase their America tickets and they even had a bit of money

left over to get a fresh start in the new land.

It was time to start packing their America chest with numerous necessities and the few treasures which they possessed. Trunks must be obtained for their copper pots and pans, dishes and flatware, bedding and linen, clothing and shoes, and a few tools. Above all they must not forget the spinning wheel and the wool carders because they had heard that in some parts of America the winters were long and bitter, but as long as Brita Erickson had the spinning wheel and wool carders she could provide her family with warm garments and thick woolen quilts. At least they would not freeze to death whatever else might befall them in America, but of course little but good could happen in that wonderful land.

It would be no easy matter to travel with the children so far across the wide open sea because Anna, the eldest, was only 4 years of age, Anders Jr. was 3, Kirsten was a year, and Lisa had been born just a month prior to their departure from Gagnef.

Although the descendents of Anders and Brita Erickson have numerous records and documents in their possession there is not a single scrap of paper among these to indicate at which Swedish port the Ericksons embarked for their voyage, or on what ship they sailed, or at what point in the U.S.A. they landed. All that is known is that they left Sweden on May 26, 1877 and arrived in America at some future date.

After landing they proceeded by immigrant train to Hoffman, Minnesota. Why did they choose that particular spot in which to make their new home? First of all Minnesota was well settled with Swedish families. Also, Ander's older brother Ole Erickson had immigrated on May 1, 1868 and settled at Hoffman, and Anders and Brita were anxious to go where Ole was, which they did and there they remained for 21 years.

Anders Erickson purchased a farm about a half-mile from Hoffman, built a house, stable, sheds, and proceeded to break, seed, and harvest the land.



Brita and Anders Erickson (1911). Anna, Andrew, Carolina, Johnny, Tilda, and Oscar.



Sons of Anders and Brita Erickson, Johnny, Oscar, Eric and Andrew (1916).

Over the years they acquired an unknown quantity of livestock, machinery, and other necessities. They also acquired 5 more children — Carolina, Eric, Tilda, Oscar, and Johnny.

The older children were now of considerable help to their parents. Even a young child could help in many ways as soon as he could walk. Actually things were getting pretty good and Anders and Brita had all but forgotten their earlier disappointment and may have even been thankful for having come to America; certainly they had never had so much when they lived in Sweden. This was how it was for a number of years and then misfortune struck. There came a succession of bad years when the rain failed to fall and the crops were poor and there was not enough feed for the cattle and money became scarcer than ever.

Then there were the long cold winters and the deep snow and the blizzards. The Ericksons had a rope fastened from the house to the barn to guide them and all were warned not to let go of this guideline when a blizzard struck.

By 1895, the situation at Hoffman, Minnesota had become desperate due to the prolonged drought so the Swedish settlers appointed one of their neighbors, Andrew Lindberg, to be their land scout. He was instructed to go to the N.W.T. in Canada and select good land to which he could guide these "Children of Sweden." Mr. Lindberg explored the area around

Leduc, Calmar, and Willow Creek and returned to Hoffman with a glowing report of rich soil, tall grass and an abundance of water and bush interspersed with some wide open spaces. Oh, but this was good news and exactly the kind of country which the Ericksons liked because they were interested in ranching. Yet nothing much appears to have happened during the next 3 years. Perhaps they waited and hoped that the rain would fall again.

However, it must have gotten worse instead of better because in 1898 Anders and Brita Erickson decided to move to Canada accompanied by 4 of their children — Anders Jr. who was now 24 years of age and was being called Andrew, and Tilda, Oscar and Johnny. Their other 5 children would remain in Minnesota because Anna and Lisa were already married and Eric, Kerstin, and Carolina were old enough to have jobs. Their household goods, livestock, and machinery were loaded on boxcars with Andrew in charge. Andrew was a sensible, capable, and responsible young man and would see to it that everything would arrive safely at its destination.

The remainder of the family came by passenger car to Leduc from which point they proceeded 13 miles west to the Calmar district by horse and wagon with all their possessions.

Anders Erickson filed on NW 22-49-27-W4 which was homestead land and situated 1 mile south and 2½ miles west of the present town of Calmar.

Although it was already the tenth of May they hurriedly broke 3 acres and seeded some grain, but there was no harvest due to an early frost.

Fortunately they had brought along a tent, 16 by 12 feet, which was used as a shelter while they cut and hewed logs with which to build a more substantial dwelling. When the log house was finished, the tent was used as a lining on the inside of the roof and it must have protected this family from many a wintry blast. A log barn and other buildings were also erected. The biggest problem of all was to find water suitable for household use. Well after well was dug and each one did its duty a short while and then went dry.

Everything was becoming much better except for one thing — there was no house of worship in the immediate area. Something certainly had to be done about that so in 1903 Anders Erickson donated 3 acres of land and on the northwest corner of his farm the Calmar Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church was established. My, what a pleasure it was to get dressed up on Sunday mornings and attend church and once again hear the Word of God in their Swedish tongue. How nice it was to stand about and chat with friends after the service or to be invited to a neighbor's home for Sunday dinner or to have a congenial couple or two at one's own home to partake of food and drink. Of course there were also times of deep sorrow when dear ones were laid to rest in the little cemetery beside the church, but at least it was a comfort to know that the souls of the departed had been ministered to in a proper and Christian manner.

It was also in the year 1903 that Anders Erickson felt a need to insure his possessions against fire. In spite of the scarcity of money in those times he insured his log house and barn for the total of \$300 with the Phoenix Assurance Co. Ltd. The premium was \$6.00 for a three-year period. It appears that Mr. Erickson may have received his policy from an insurance agent from Strathcona, N.W.T. From that time on Anders Erickson and several of his descendents have never been without fire insurance and neither have they ever had a fire.

In 1907 Brita and Anders Erickson became homesick although they had no desire to return to Sweden as one might easily suppose. By this time Sweden was just a memory and they had little contact with relatives there except for an occasional letter. No, they wanted to return to Minnesota to visit their children there. This prompted them to sell their farm for \$2000 to their son Andrew, who by this time had acquired a wife and family. Having accomplished that, they went to Jenkins, Minnesota to live with their daughter, Lisa. They had been there only a short time when they realized that Minnesota was no longer to their liking. The Willow Creek area was definitely home now, so there they returned and built a small house a short distance from their former home. There they lived in retirement for the remainder of their lives and here their grandchildren could run in and out and eat cookies and candies.

Anders Erickson died in 1917. Following her husband's death, Brita sold the little house and went to live with her various children. She passed away in 1924 at the home of her son Johnny at Glen Park, Alberta. Both are buried in the Calmar Swedish Lutheran Cemetery on the land which Anders donated for this purpose. Their descendents are numerous and live at various points in Canada and the U.S.A.

ANDREW AND CHRISTINE ERICKSON

by Glenys Wronko

In the 1870s in the small parish of Gagnef, Sweden, Andrew Erickson and Christine Lindstrom were born. Little did anyone know that it would be nearly a quarter of a century later that they would meet in the N.W.T. of Canada, later to become Alberta.

Andrew Erickson, born March 11, 1874, was the second child and eldest son of Anders and Brita Erickson. In 1877 Andrew came with his parents to Hoffman, Minnestoa, where they resided for the next 21 years. There Andrew received his education and grew to young manhood. In 1898 he came to the N.W.T. with his parents, his 2 youngest brothers, Oscar and Johnny, and his sister Tilda, where the family took up residence in the Calmar district. By this time Andrew was 24 years of age. The fact that Andrew and his father had the same initial in their first



Erick Erickson, Christine and Andrew Erickson. (Taken at Chilliwack, B.C. in 1920).

names led Andrew to add the middle initial "A" to his own name and became Andrew A. Erickson.

Christine Lindstrom and her twin sister were born January 21, 1878 to Finn Anders and Anna Lindstrom. In 1882 the Lindstroms and their son Anders and 3 daughters, Christine, Anna, and Betsy moved to Rutland, North Dakota. In June 1895 Anna died, presumably from consumption. In October, 1895 the Lindstroms, with daughters Christine and Betsy, also came to the Calmar district.

Here Andrew and Christine met and then married on July 17, 1899. They travelled by team and buggy to Wetaskiwin, a distance of well over 30 miles, and were married by Pastor Linde, presumably in his home, as no church is mentioned on the marriage certificate. Witnesses to the marriage were Mrs. Linde and Peter Ronn, a friend of Christine.

The couple's first home was a small log cabin with sod roof situated on SE 27-49-27-W4 which Andrew Erickson owned jointly with his brother Johnny. Here the young couple remained for the next 8 years. Two sturdy sons, Eddie and Charlie, came to bless their marriage and 5 years later their only daughter Elsie was born. After Charlie had inspected his baby sister he turned to his mother and said, "Mama, she's the prettiest baby in the whole Eaton's catalogue."

During this period under the Supreme Court of the N.W.T., Judicial District of Northern Alberta, Andrew A. Erickson received his Certificate of Naturalization on November 2, 1904.

By 1907, Anders and Brita Erickson had reached retirement age so they sold their homestead NW 22-49-27-W4 to their son Andrew and his wife Christine Erickson. Andrew then sold his portion of SE 27-49-27-W4 to Johnny Erickson. Then he moved his wife and family of 3 to the original homestead, a farm which remained in the Erickson family for 70 years and was home to 4 generations of that family. There, Andrew and Christine's last child Frank was born.

In the early years before the railroad was extended from Breton and Winfield, and before trucks became common, the settlers had to do their own freighting with horses and wagons or sleds. All the way from Warburg, Lindale, and surrounding areas they came with their loads of lumber, tamarack poles and willow posts enroute to Leduc to sell them. Sometimes they brought loads of pigs and then troughs were placed on the sides of the sled or wagon boxes so that the animals could be fed and kept in good condition for market. This was a very long haul which could not be completed in one day even though the teamsters had started out at dawn. By dusk, the horses were sweat-lathered and weary and required a night's rest. These men soon discovered that the Erickson farm was a good stopping place. Andrew Erickson would turn out his own horses and cattle to the big straw piles so that the travellers could stable their teams and Mrs. Erickson would set extra places at the table. The next morning the men would proceed to Leduc. In this manner the Ericksons became aquainted with Stennis, Julius and Ed Hannem, Halvor Halvorson, Gus Olson, Victor Anderson, Martin Oelkers, George and Halvor Saubak, Albin Benson, Charlie Ladd, and many others from the Warburg district.

Many pioneers had a root cellar and the Erickson farm was no exception. Here the settlers stored potatoes and vegetables and placed pans of milk to cool so the cream would rise. As Andrew would enter the root cellar, large numbers of garter snakes could be seen dangling from the ceiling like strings of spaghetti. It was a loathsome sight which caused Andrew to abhor snakes, no matter how harmless they might be.

In fact there were only 2 things which bothered him more than snakes and they were fire and lightning. Consequently he always carried fire insurance and equipped all of his buildings with lightning rods as soon as he could afford to do so,

The Erickson children received their education at the one-room Willow Creek School. In summer they walked or rode horseback, and in the winter they used a horse and sled, cutting across neighboring farms to get to the schoolhouse. Lard or syrup pails were used as lunch kits and these contained the usual homesteader's fare — sandwiches, drumstick or breast from a wild or domestic fowl, jars of fruit and cookies.



The Andrew Erickson Family - (1929) Left to right: Eddie, Charlie, Christine, Andrew, Elsie, and Frankie.



Home of Andrew and Christine Erickson - (1918) Elsie, Frankie, Christine, Mrs. Pauline Erickson, Charlie, Eddie, Mr. Eric Erickson and Andrew (tamed coyote in foreground and dinner bell on post).

Occasionally there would be "lefsa" and then the Erickson children had to keep a sharp eye on their lunch pails because the other Swedish children threatened to deprive them of their special treat.

Andrew Erickson appears to have been a man of many talents. He was a reasonably good carpenter and helped to build homes in the Willow Creek district. He was a good handyman and devised various ways of making his home safe for his children. He owned a button accordian which he had learned to play and with this he entertained his children and provided music for house parties. He appears to have known how to get along with people and because of that he was usually road foreman in the district and he also was separator man on the threshing rigs.

Christine Erickson was a very good midwife and was frequently called out to assist Dr. Woods and Dr. Kidd of Leduc and she could handle a delivery by herself if necessary. Frequently she remained in the home of the new parents for several days, cooking, washing, and caring for the mother and baby. Christine probably experienced the greatest thrill when she helped to deliver her first grandson, Dennis Erickson.

It seems that the Erickson men have always been keen on auction sales and Andrew Erickson was no exception. On one occasion he brought home a beautiful old pump organ, probably worth a small fortune in today's antique-crazed society. On another occasion it was a lovely old washstand, dresser and bed to match, which had been the property of George St. Paul. There was only one thing wrong with the dresser and bedstead - they were much too large for the Erickson home. A great commotion ensued when the huge old dresser and bedstead were moved up and down the steep and narrow stairway. "By hooky," muttered Andrew Erickson, "this can't go on any longer." and he got out his carpenter tools and trimmed the dresser and bedstead down to a more suitable size. The bedroom suite has been refinished and is still in use in the home of their son Frankie.

In the summer of 1911 both of Christine's parents died and their farm (SW 2-50-27-W4) passed to Christine. In 1919 this land was sold to Mr. I. Bury and the money was used to purchase NW 15-49-27-W4 which was closer to their farm and therefore easier to

farm.

It was also in 1911 that a telephone was installed in the Erickson home and what a convenience that was. Their phone was connected with the Conjuring Creek Central and the phone was \$15.00 per year.

Still more land was required as Andrew's sons became older so the quarter directly north of Andrew's farm was purchased from J.C. McNair. This was SW 27-49-27-W4 and eventually became Eddie's farm while Charlie fell heir to NW 15-49-27-W4. The original homestead would someday become Frankie's quarter.

On January 5, 1920 Andrew Erickson purchased his first motor vehicle, a 1918 Chevrolet touring car, for the sum of \$730. His sons were now old enough to drive a car because Andrew was never able to drive a car or tractor. The next car was a 1927 Pontiac costing \$1315 and it must have been a gorgeous vehicle for its time because Elsie became so enamored of it that she spent an entire afternoon in the garage doing nothing but sitting in the new car.

In 1920 Andrew and Christine took their first holiday and went by train to Chilliwack, B.C. to visit Andrew's brother Eric and his wife Pauline, and also Andrew's sister Tilda and her husband Frank Van Meter. During their absence their oldest son Eddie was the guardian of the younger children and also their chef. Among the specialities on his menu were pancakes, "egg-rurra," and "velling." When Andrew and Christine returned 2 or 3 weeks later, everything was well under control.

Horses were used for farming operations. Two four-horse spans were used for disking, harrowing, seeding and reaping and a five-horse tandem (2 in the lead and 3 at the rear) were used on the two-bottom gangplow. The men had to be up at dawn to feed, curry and harness the horses in readiness for the day's field work not to mention milking the cows and feeding the hogs before breakfast.

During the early years at Calmar, threshing was done first by Frank Bjur and later by Eric Lindberg's threshing rigs. Each one had employed Andrew Erickson as separator man. In 1925 Andrew purchased a Titan tractor which was used to power the Moody threshing machine which belonged to his brothers Oscar and Johnny.

By this time Andrew felt that he had become a very good separator man and therefore bought his own threshing rig — a 28 inch Case separator. His 3 sons now helped with the threshing and the Case was purchased and while it was being unloaded from the flatbed, a wheel slipped off the ramp and the new machine landed on its side. The damage was not extensive, but there were a few dents and creases which had to be ironed out. A situation like that would have caused other men to swear in a most disgraceful manner but Andrew Erickson was not a swearing man and the best he could muster was an explosive "By hooky!", that being his favorite expletive whenever he felt a need for one.

In 1923 a large new barn was built, which became more than a shelter for 17 horses and a dozen cows and their calves. Even before the barn was finished, a stairway had to be hurriedly built to the loft in readiness for the wedding dance of Henry and Alvina Evenson. Picnic dances and numerous other wedding dances including those of Andrew and Christine's children were held there and that was also where Christine and Andrew celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage. On one of those occasions, a keg of beer was purchased, tapped, and the beer was carried up to the loft in milk buckets. Among the guests was one who was not Swedish and may also have been rather naive becase when she spied the foam-covered contents of the buckets she assumed that it was probably an old Swedish custom to serve milk at wedding dances.

The Swedish Lutheran Church situated on a corner of Andrew Erickson's farm played a very important role in the lives of the Ericksons, their family, relatives and friends. There they met to worship as frequently as a minister was available. There they came to attend christenings, weddings and funerals. They also met at other times to clean or paint the church and to look after the graves. Probably the most important event of the year was the Christmas concert. Then everyone from the youngest to the oldest grandparent would come. On the day of the program Andrew Erickson loaded his organ on a sleigh and took it to the church. What a fuss and flurry there had been to find costumes, garlands, and Christmas decorations and the tall spruce tree too, decorated with glittering ornaments and wax candles. Each year the concerts seemed to get a little bit better, but all good things seem to come to an end and now the cozy little church which dispensed so much pleasure has vanished from the scene.

The first of Andrew and Christine's children to marry was their daughter Elsie. She became the wife of Eddie Lindberg, son of pioneer Calmar residents, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Lindberg. Their early married life was spent in Edmonton, Alberta where Eddie was employed with Edmonton Motors Ltd. Through the years 5 children were born — Delores, Rodney, Beatrice, Marilyn and Norman.

Andrew and Christine's 3 sons were married in the

1930s. With their father's help it was decided to make the next several years of farming a family project as this would enable Eddie, Charlie and Frankie to get a better start on their lands. Together they seeded, hayed, and harvested as the seasons demanded. Expenses were shared and money from grain, cattle and hogs was divided but their milk cheques were their own. Each year more machinery was purchased until each brother had his own line of equipment but the threshing machine, grain elevator, racks, stook loader, and later the swather and combine were shared.

The years had passed quickly and the Ericksons had seen many changes. The Willow Creek district was no longer bush country; it was now similar to the prairie. Log cabins had been replaced by modern homes, the winding Pigeon Lake trail was replaced by gravel and pavement, the horse had become almost extinct and the buggy entirely so. They had seen 2 world wars come and go and had lived through the terrible influenza epidemic of 1918. The Great Depression was only a memory and now inflation was the big headache. Coal oil lamps were replaced with electricity and homes were heated with natural gas and propane. Jet planes had almost replaced the luxury liners and there had been moon landings and space probes. The names of Pickford, Garbo, Barrymore, and Chaplin were no longer heard in the homes and the old time waltz and fox trot were abandoned for rock and roll.

Christine Erickson did not see nearly as many of these changes as her husband did. She passed away in 1938. Neither did Andrew Erickson see all the changes mentioned as he died in 1952. They were both buried in the family plot of the Swedish Lutheran Cemetery on their farm.

Although Andrew and Christine had 4 children and 11 grandchildren, not one of them resides in the Willow Creek district at present.

CHARLES AND TILLIE ERICKSON

by Tillie Erickson

Charlie was the second son of Christine and Andrew Erickson and was born in Willow Creek in 1902. He received his education at the Willow Creek School, As a young boy he liked sports and was a member of the Willow Creek hockey and baseball teams. He says they weren't the best but the comradeship and sportsmanship were enjoyed and are still remembered. In later years he curled.

Reminiscing about his younger years, Charlie recalls the times were not too affluent. It rained a great deal, there were early frosts, plenty of mosquitoes and the farmers' fields were small. As a result the income from sales of grain was very small. Cows were the backbone of the farm income as pastures and hay were plentiful. Charlie has peddled many pounds of butter



Tillie & Charlie Erickson's farm in Willow Creek - built in 1930's.

in Calmar and Leduc to his mother's regular customers.

To own a much-wanted saddle pictured in Eatons catalogue, he, one year raised a nice patch of potatoes to make this dream become a reality. This proved to be a better investment than the bicycle he owned for a short time. The bike he had to raffle off. Why? Just because there was no money with which to buy tires for it.

Round-up time every fall was an exciting outing to which he looked forward. The farmers sold their cattle to buyers and he helped, on horseback, with his uncle John Erickson, to organize the yearly project. The cattle were taken to the Blind Line (now Highway 39) and headed to Leduc and down Leduc's main street to a stockyard, then near the railroad tracks. Imagine doing this now with the amount of traffic on# 39 or on the busy streets of the growing town of Leduc.

One outing Charlie will never forget was in the early 20's when after threshing he and two companions, Charlie Phillips and Adolph Lundblad, each took a load of wheat to the Strathcona Flour Mill to be exhanged for a year's supply of flour.

There was no snow but the roads were icy. The horses had been shod so they got a good grip on the icy roads but the wagon slid sideways and stood crossways on the highway between Leduc and Edmonton. A Mountie on horseback came along, and realizing the time Charlie and his companions were having, told them to hold the road if a car should come along; they would have the right of way. Luckily they didn't meet one car between Leduc and Edmonton. Home really looked good the next afternoon when Charlie turned into his home gate.

I, Tillie Knutson was born in Erskine, Minnesota in 1908 and came with my parents who were Norwegian, to Edmonton in 1913. They were Jacob and Annie Knutson and the High Level Bridge was under construction at the time. I received my teacher's

certificate in 1928 and that fall the Willow Creek school became the first and only one I ever taught. I taught there for 4 years. We were married in 1930 and spent our honeymoon in Banff and Charlie thinks we only spent \$25 or \$30.00 for the week's holiday.

Then it was time to start a home on our quarter of land, the NW 15-49-27-W4. Maybe it was lucky for Charlie that the first years of farming after our marriage was a company set up with his father, brother Eddie, also a newly wed and his brother Frankie. It took Charlie some time to call our place home as home to him was the place where his mother, father, brothers and sister Elsie had grown up. For several years there was lots of driving between our place and their farms to break land and start buildings. Maybe, in this way, the leaving home feeling or adjustment was a gradual one and finally was accepted.

We made progress every year as Willow Creek was a good farming area. A crop was fairly certain as rains were plentiful, and at that time it was a pretty sure hail-free district. By 1939 we had the buildings we required. A 65 foot well was bored in 1931 but it did not supply our needs as our farming operations expanded, so in 1936 we had a well drilled. We had the



Charlie and Tillie Erickson with 1928 Chev Coach bought in 1933.

Picture taken 1937.

site witched first and at 211 feet it turned out to be a real good well with lots of soft water.

Looking back Charlie and I think that in our span of life we have witnessed some of the world's most remarkable changes in living conditions; the many inventions that have made life a little easier and more pleasant for mankind.

The farms have changed with modern homes instead of log cabins. Town and country roads and main highways have been upgraded. The horse and buggy days are gone and are re-placed by cars and trucks. Farming with horses has been replaced by the most up-to-date power machinery. Just think what electricity (to Willow Creek in 1952) the phone in 1910 and gas (in 1968) has meant to the farmers in Willow Creek district.

Children are bused to centralized schools, and, consider the increase in the use of airplanes for transportation of goods and for travelling. The invention of radio and television have brought countries of the world closer to each other and man has walked on the moon.

There is a saying "All good things come to and end" and maybe ours was in July 1971 when we sold our farm and moved to Leduc. What does living in town mean? To Charlie it is meaningless. On the farm the work changed with the seasons. Here in town we have made lots of new friends but like to keep the old friends around Willow Creek as well. The Calmar area and particularly Willow Creek," where we felt a sense of belonging", will always be home to us and we are proud to have lived and been a part of that community. It was there we enjoyed our working years, Charlie for 69 and I for 43 years. We hope we made some contributions to the district and to the world in general.

THE ERICKSONS (EDDIE AND RUTH)

by Ruth Erickson

Eddie Erickson, the oldest child of Andrew and Christine Erickson, was born in 1900 northwest of Calmar on the farm of his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lindstrom. I, Ruth Erickson, a daughter of Cordelia and Charlie Phillips, was born in Willow Creek in 1903.

Eddie and I both attended the Willow Creek School. We were married in 1930 and our farm (SW 27-49-27 W4) was across the road from his parents with my parents living on the next quarter directly to the west

Eddie took after his father in two respects. Both were good carpenters and Eddie learned to be the separator man for their threshing machine when his father retired. He took an interest in sports, played baseball and in his later years did some curling. For several years he played a horn in Dixon's Band.

I milked many cows and churned a great deal of



Eddie & Ruth Erickson and three sons, Clifford (youngest), Jack & Dennis (oldest).

butter when I was at home. The butter was sold to customers and stores in Calmar.

The years 1930 and 1931 were very exciting for the farmers in Willow Creek. The C.P.R. completed the railroad line (which crossed our farm) from Leduc to the newly formed town of Thorsby. The station of Buford was created and elevators built to serve the Willow Creek, Glen Park and Wilton Park areas. This railroad meant that the long trips of hauling grain to Leduc often in bitterly cold weather had come to an end. Eddie and his brother Charlie had 14 miles to haul their grain to Leduc and if it hadn't been for their fur coats and large fur mitts they never could have stood such trips on many a cold winter's day. Those fur mitts were a "must".

Another later change and perhaps of greater importance was when the Texaco Oil Company discovered gas and oil in the Bonnie Glen and Wizard Lake fields. This necessitated the upgrading of the roads in our district to handle the heavy loads of equipment and loads of oil. In 1954 Texaco built a railway spur line on our farm and also ran a pipeline from the Bonnie Glen and Wizard Lake fields to the main rail line to haul away many butane and propane tank cars.

Eddie and I often said we were glad our grandparents and parents settled in this area. It proved to be a good farming district and Willow Creek always was like a closely knit family. Neighbors shared their joys and sorrows and were always ready to give a helping hand when the need arose. We can never forget the "Wide Awake Club" we formed in the early 1930's. Our club planned entertainment of many kinds for the winter and summer seasons. There were card parties, pie and box socials, waffle parties and always something special at Christmas time. Our summer outings would be picnics, wiener roasts, fishing trips to Pigeon Lake and on many a Sunday we played baseball. After these baseball games we enjoyed a good "chit chat" over our pot luck lunch. The farm chores that stared us in our faces when we returned home always seemed to be made a little bit lighter when tackled. I have on record the cost of several of our "Dos". For a Shadow Social Party we



1925 - Breaking land on Eddie Erickson farm. Eddie on the Titan Tractor & Charlie Erickson seated on the 24 in. home made breaking plow they purchased from their neighbor Eric Westlund, considered at the time to be a good sized plow.

first enjoyed a beef supper. The roast cost \$1.10 and fed over 20 people. The ladies supplied the rest of the meal. For a summer picnic the expenses were \$4.85 which paid for the coffee, mustard, relish, buns and wieners. For a Christmas Pot Luck supper the club bought 2 turkeys for \$4.30, a box of oranges for 90¢, mixed nuts for \$1.00 and mixed candy for 50¢. Our baseball bat and ball were \$2.85. It is a different story

I have 3 sons Dennis, Jack and Clifford and they attended the Willow Creek and Calmar Schools. They didn't follow in their father's footsteps by becoming farmers. But they know something about farming as they helped their dad and often were hired by their Uncles Charlie and Frankie Erickson to do odd jobs and some field work. Many a fall they worked on their father's and uncles' threshing crews threshing in Willow Creek until the arrival of the combines.

When oil was discovered near Devon in 1947 they were just at the right age to get good jobs with oil

Dennis married June La Forge of Thorsby, lives in Edmonton and has been with Texaco for over 25 years. Jack married Irene McLeod of Drumheller, and resides at Bonnie Glen where for 23 years he has been with the Bonnie Glen Texaco Gas Plant. At present he is their maintenance foreman. Clifford married Joan Alton of Thorsby and their home is in Drayton Valley where Clifford has been with the Pembina Pipe Line for 21 years.

Our farm received a new name "The Willow Creek Ranch" when in 1973, we sold it to the Jim Tattersalls who raise horses. We moved into Leduc on April 28 and 6 days later, on May 4, Eddie suddenly passed away. He never had a chance to see what living in a town would be like. This shock was hard for me to face. I'm managing my own home, have made new friends but cannot and never will forget the old ones. By joining the Friendship and Senior Citizens' Clubs and a church group I keep busy. And lucky for me my 3 sons and their families are not too far away.

THE FRANK ERICKSONS

by Gerda Erickson

Frank Wilfred Erickson was the youngest child of Andrew and Christine Erickson. He was born at their home, NW 22-49-27 W4, on October 17, 1910 with Dr. Woods in attendance. Since the telephone had not yet come to the area, Andrew Erickson had ridden horseback to the Sangster home in the Conjuring Creek district (the telephone central was located there) to telephone for a doctor who resided in Leduc. We note on Frankie's birth certificate there is only the name "Frank", but when he was baptized by Pastor Lindgren on April 23, 1911, he was given a middle name "Wilfred" which he has used ever since.

His school days were spent at the Willow Creek School where his first teacher was W. W. Rogers. Upon completion of school, he, as so many of the farm boys at the time did, remained at home to help with the farm work. When he reached young manhood, he and his 2 older married brothers and his father farmed together, sharing the work, the expenses, and profits

and everything was progressing very well.

In the year 1935 a young blonde girl came on the scene and disrupted his life. I, Gerda Osbak, was that girl. We were married a year later and lived with Frankie's parents.

Our first child Ronald was born on Good Friday in April 1938 and became the fourth generation of Ericksons to live in the pioneer home. That same year in September, Frankie's mother died at the early age of 60 years. She was so sadly missed and mourned by her family. We then continued to live with Frankie's father.

How vividly I remember the fall of 1939 when World War II was declared. Fearfully I would listen to the radio as Lorne Greene would broadcast the National News every evening. I was young and impressionable and had visions of every available young man being presented with a gun and sent to fight for his country. However, since the men on the land were needed to produce food and grain for a country at war, neither Frankie nor his brothers were in the services. The war years went on and became a way of life. We learned to live with ration coupons, scarcity of farm machinery and repairs and men for harvest help. There was a shortage of hosiery and bare legs became fashionable. We were able to buy a leg tint however, and colored our legs and marked a seam with eyebrow pencil.

During the fall of 1944, our daughter Glenys was

The war ended. There was the joyous return of the servicemen with all the celebrations. Once more farm machinery was being manufactured and with more money available, we, as well as our neighbors began farming with tractors and combines, the era of the workhorse was about over.

The fall of 1946 was beautiful with warm sunny days. There was soon to be a big change for all the area



Frankie and Gerda Erickson (August 1936)



Frankie and Gerda Erickson's grandchildren — Trevor, Lorne, Jonathan and Tommy (1973).

where we lived, for that was when Imperial Oil began drilling the first well in the Calmar district and no one knew what secret lay hidden deep within the earth under the well site. In February of the next year the secret was revealed when Imperial #1 blew in and the oil boom was on, changing the life style for so many people. Everyone must have their own memories of those hectic days.

I remember the very first time I saw nylon stockings. They were so beautiful, so sheer and so costly and painted toenails showed through them so delightfully. Soon the silk stockings we called crepe sheers with their seamed backs and high heel panels and fashion marks were outmoded, for nylon stockings were being made seamless.

We moved into our new house in the autumn of 1949 and the dear pioneer log house built by Anders Erickson, Frankie's grandfather, so many years ago was sold to a relative, namely Raymond Erickson, and was moved to his farm. It was with mixed emotion we watched it being moved away. It had so faithfully sheltered the various Ericksons over the many years. Within its walls lingered the memories of love and laughter, children's happy voices and a new baby's first cry and times of deep heartbreaking grief.

In 1950 electric power was installed, what an exciting change! The coal oil lamps, latterns, and sadirons were carefully put away. A bright yard light lit up our whole farmyard at night, we cooked on an electric stove, and the electric refrigerator was such a

delight after going out to the well to lower the milk and cream and butter to keep them cool. Also there was an electric motor to pump water, no more did we have to rely on the wind to turn the windmill or struggle with the cantankerous gasoline engine that would absolutely refuse to start when we needed water most. The electric washing machine ended the racket of the gas motor washer which we had used over the many years.

Frankie's father passed away in January 1952. He had seen many changes since he had come to the area as a young man of 24.

In the spring of 1952 the Willow Creek Community Association and the Willow Creek Ladies Club were organized. The two-roomed Willow Creek School had been closed and was purchased by the Community Association to be used as a community centre. Here followed many happy years of good fellowship with our friends and neighbors when we gathered for card parties, suppers and several winter seasons of square dancing fun.

With the passing of those years our 2 children were growing up, going to school and graduating andworking at summertime jobs. Soon they were enrolling in university and then leaving home to go to work

It was then we began to realize we were getting older. We rented out out fields and Frankie began working for the County of Leduc at various jobs associated with agriculture. He was weed inspector for several years, worked on the Bangs Disease Calfhood Vaccination Program and the Highway Beautification Program planting shrubs and trees, all under the supervision of Fieldman Jules Bruggeman. Frankie also sold All-Risk Crop Insurance when it was first introduced in the County of Leduc.

In April 1969 we sold our farm to Clair and Avis Pearson and had a house built in the town of Leduc. We had an auction sale to dispose of our machinery and chattels.

The first winter we lived in Leduc Frankie worked at the Leduc Curling Rink helping the icemaker. In 1970 he was offered the job as caretaker for the County Administration Building where he was employed for 7 years.

He retired in November 1977. Our daughter Glenys and husband Eugene and their 2 sons Lorne and Jonathan live in Leduc. Our son Ronald married Georgie Stone and they have 2 sons Trevor and Tommy.

ERICKSON, FRED

By Dave Erickson

My father's parents were Olaf and Anna Erickson. They came from Hoffman, Minnesota and settled in the Willow Creek District in 1899. They had 6 children, 2 of whom had died in the States, the remaining four came with their parents to Canada. My



Fred & Lottie Erickson with Arnie & Pearl.

father was then 30 years old.

He and his father each homesteaded a quarter of land on the same section S½-16-49-27 W4. They had dried out in the States and liked the look of this land because of the lush, green hay and the abundancy of water.

He met Charlotte (Lottie) Nystrom from the Kulm District in 1905 and they were married. They had 9 children - Arnie, born August 1906, now living on Mark Forbes farm east of Thorsby, Pearl, born 1908 living in Wetaskiwin, Florence, born 1910 (she died from eating poison berries at the age of three), Mabel, born June 1912, now living in Kelowna, B.C., Stanley, born in 1914, now living in Edmonton, Ernest, born 1919, now living with Arnie, Melvey born in 1922, lived in Ontario until her death in 1976 of cancer, and Vernon, born in 1924, now living at Fleet, Alberta. We were all born in the house on the farm, with Mrs. Eric Lundblad, father's sister, as midwife.



Fred Erickson with sisters Christine Lundblad (L) & Annie Haven.



The Erickson Family
L. to R. Back Row: Dave, Ernest, Stanley, Arnie and Vernon.
Front Row: Mabel, Melvey (Pearl missing).

In 1928 he bought the NW 9-49-27-W4 from Henry Rinas, which had only a few acres cleared.

We moved to Thorsby for a couple of years, 1929-1931, when Thorsby was first starting to build. At this time Mother had a restaurant where later the Nu-Way Store was built and is now Gordon Bernes's property. We again moved back to the farm where we stayed, helping my father clear his land until we went our own ways. My father was on his way to Vancouver and died at Salmon Arm in 1944 at the age of 74. He is buried in the Willow Creek Community Cemetery.

Mother remarried in 1945 to John Osterburg from the Glen Park area. They bought a house at Mission Beach on Pigeon Lake and spent the next 12 years living there. They worked at sawmills and later on oil rigs where Johnny fired the boiler.

In about 1958, they moved to Kelowna, B.C. and retired. They are both still living and Mother does her own housework and cooking at the age of 89.

Note: Mrs. Lottie Osterburg died Jan. 8, 1979 at the age of 89. She is buried in Kelowna.

OLAF ERICKSON STORY

by Ellen Pearson

Olaf Erickson and his wife Brita came to Calmar in 1890. They brought all their machinery, livestock and furniture up from the States on an immigration train along with several other settlers. The train brought them to Leduc. They settled on the S.E. 16-49-27-W4. Their first desire was to return to the United States, when they saw all the brush and water on this land that they chose. They built a log house, which later had to be moved because it was on the wrong quarter. They lived in it for years until they built a larger house.

There were 4 children; Christine (Lundblad), Annie (Hagen), Edmonton, Lena (Hall), Hughenden,



Olaf Erickson
Back Row: L. to R. Andrew, Fred, Christine and Annie. Front Row: Lena,
Olaf, Brita, and Mary.

and Fred Erickson from Thorsby. Christine and her husband Eric settled on a quarter close by her parents' place and Fred on the quarter beside them.

There was a lot of hard work for all of them. They grubbed the land as well as having the usual daily chores with cows and chickens. The year's supply of hay was cut with a scythe. Wheat was hauled in to Edmonton to be made into flour. Other grains were taken into Leduc to be sold. It took a whole day to travel to Leduc and 1 day to get back, so supplies were brought only 2 or 3 times a year.

Picnics were held at the Erickson place and the neighbors would gather from miles around.

The Wilton Park post office was in the house for a few years with Matt Hagen as postmaster.

The people in the district all helped to build the Swedish Lutheran Church on the N.E. corner of section 22. The church is torn down now so just the cemetery remains. Services were held in the church every Sunday and the hymn singing was led by Olaf.

Christine and Eric Lundblad had 6 children; Emil, Ellen, Annie, Adolph and 2 girls that passed away when the diphteria epidemic spread through the community.

Ellen married L. Andrew Pearson and moved to Bruce, Alberta. Annie married Ernest Jacobson and moved to her grandfather's farm for a few years. Emil stayed on the home place until he went to a nursing home. Adolph passed away in 1932.

Brita passed away in 1926 at the age of 91, and Olaf died in 1938 at the age of 92.



A picnic held at the home of Olaf Erickson SE 16-49-27-W4 in 1912.

OSCAR AND ANNIE ERICKSON

Sven Oscar Erickson and Annie Amelia Falk were united in marriage at the Swedish Lutheran Church south east of Calmar in 1906 by Pastor Lindgren, marking the beginning of a new pioneer family to help settle and carve out the community of Willow Creek. They and their descendants have been active members of the community throughout the years and remnants of the family still remain in the district at this time of writing.

Oscar's early life was spent in Hoffman, Minnesota, where he was born on July 7, 1884, the eighth child of Andrew and Brita Erickson, who had emigrated from Sweden several years earlier. Here he received most of his early schooling and at the age of 14 he immigrated with his parents and several other brothers and sisters to Calmar, Alberta, Canada. As soon as he was old enough, Oscar filed for a homestead on the S.W. 10-49-27-W4. In 1903 he bought the adjoining quarter to the west from the C.P.R. the S.E. 9-49-27-W4. This became the home quarter on which he built a log house and barn. It is not exactly clear what became of the homestead as there are no recollections of him ever farming it. It is thought that he may have traded it for a house at Beverley, just east of Edmonton as he owned a house there at one time.

Annie was also American born of Norwegian ancestry, her parents having emigrated from Norway. She was born in 1885, the third and last child of Anton Falk. Shortly after her birth, her father passed away and her mother, Kristine married Anton's brother, Adolph Falk. A second family of 5 children were born to Mrs. Falk and her new husband at Forman, North Dakota. In 1899 when Annie was 14, the family emigrated and took a homestead north of Calmar where one more child was born. Annie worked out for several years before she met and married Oscar.

Following their marriage, Oscar took his new bride home to the log house, approximately 16' x 20' that he had constructed on the farm that he had bought 3 years earlier. He had not had time to saw out the openings for the windows, so the first few months of their marriage was spent in a dark windowless house and, as there was no stairway as yet tothe bedrooms upstairs, they had to climb a ladder from the outside of the house to go to bed at nights.

During the first 10 years or so, Oscar busied himself grubbing, clearing and breaking land which was a slow procedure in those early years when most of the work was hand labor. Annie, as manyother pioneer women, was at her husband's side helping him as much as possible, picking roots and piling them. When children came along, they were bundled up and taken out to the fields and hay meadows while she helped Oscar. Besides grain farming, the Ericksons raised hogs and milked cows, leasing a quarter to the west for pasture.

Between 1907 and 1919, 6 children were born to Oscar and Annie. The first son, Harold, born in 1907,

lived barely 2 years. Following him, 3 more sons and 2 daughters were born namely; Maynard, Raymond, Olive, Violet and Lawrence. All children were born at home with only a midwife, Mrs. Kristine Erickson, Annie's sister-in-law in attendance.

When Maynard, the eldest child became of school age, a problem arose as to where he should attend school. There was no school closer than 3½ miles, whether it be Willow Creek or Kulm, so the first 2 years he went to stay with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Adloph Falk and attended school at Rose Hill where he could be supervised by his aunt Marie who was also attending school there. When Rayomond was ready for school, they began at Willow Creek, as did the rest of the children, driving to school with a horse and buggy. Reminiscing today, they can laugh at some of the experiences they encountered that probably was not too amusing at the time. For instance the time they nearly ran over the teacher or the time when one of the girls got her head stuck between the spokes of the buggy wheel, the horse having stopped just in the nick of time.

Toys were things that the Erickson children had to invent for themselves. Raymond amused himself by running behind a small wheel which he kept going with a stick that he held in his hand. It is reported that he probably put in thousands of miles in this way. When they got older, they managed to acquire a bicycle or two but could not afford tires, so they rode on the rims.

Pioneer life was not all work. Oscar was somewhat of an entertainer in more ways than one. He used to entertain at school picnics and fairs by walking and performing on a slack wire, which he practiced after seeing a circus performer back in Hoffman, Minnesota. He also enjoyed playing his violin and fiddled for many a party in his own home as well as other neighborhood parties and barn dances. Oscar used to relate how his fiddle nearly got him into



At Oscar Erickson's - Sept. 1936
Back Row: L. to R. Frank Van Meter (Tillie's husband), Christine
Erickson (Andrew's wife), Lawrence Erickson, Olive Erickson, Lily
(Maynard's wife holding daughter Joyce), Tillie Van Meter, Oscar
Erickson, Andrew Erickson, Raymond Erickson. Front Row: Violet
Erickson, Charlie Erickson (Andrew's son), Child-Douglas, Maynard's
in front. Maynard Erickson at the very back.



Camping at Wizard Lake about 1906 shortly after Oscar & Annie Ericksons marriage. Standing: Annie & Oscar Erickson, holding fish. Seated on ground: Mrs. Oscar Sorenson, Oscar Sorenson's sister Annie. Notice wild ducks in doorway of tent.

trouble in 1898 when he moved from Minnesota. When his parents sent their cattle, machinery and household effects by train to Leduc with their eldest son Andrew in charge, 14 year old Oscar, stowed away in the cattle car with his violin, although only one person was allowed to accompany their belongings. He started fiddling one day to while away the time, only to be overheard by a train brakeman walking along the top of the car and Oscar's hiding place was revealed. He was, however, allowed to continue on and was met by his parents who had come by passenger train to Leduc. Maynard and Raymond also learned to play the violin and when Oscar bought a piano at Garbe's auction sale during the 20's and Raymond bought a guitar, the walls of the Erickson house echoed with music.

Around the end of World War I, Oscar rented a quarter to the south from Pete Modin. Needing extra help, Oscar went to the employment office in Edmonton and hired a war veteran, Mr. Knutson. The two families became lifelong friends, with the Erickson and Knutson children exchanging visits during the summer holidays. When Tilda Knutson became a school teacher, she chose Willow Creek as her first school and as a result she met and married Charlie Erickson, Oscar's nephew and became a permanent resident of Willow Creek.

By the early 1920's Oscar was well on his feet and was now in a position to upgrade and put up new farm buildings. He began by building a large new barn, 28' x 60' with Pete Modin as the carpenter, the lumber coming from Benson's sawmill at Warburg. This enabled him to add to his dairy herd which in turn would add to his income. Veterinarians were hard to

come by in those days and when one was needed, farmers could usually call on "Dr. Ankerstein" who had gained some fame as a self taught animal doctor. In later years, Oscar kept a good supply of Dr. Bells Wonder medicine on hand, guaranteed to cure anything from a chicken to a horse regardless of the ailment and Oscar swore by it.

By 1925, when the boys were getting through school, Oscar decided to acquire more land, so when Pete Modin's farm, the N.E. 4-49-27-W4, just south of the Erickson farm was for sale, Oscar bought it and hired some men to clear the land. He was now able to farm a full mile long and one-half mile wide. About this time he built a large new granary to store the grain which was then sold in Leduc. In 1927, he bought a new Chev. Landeau car, trading off the Chev. touring car that he had bought in 1918.

During the 20's a four room addition to the original log house was constructed and a summer kitchen was built directly north of the house, where cooking, washing, ironing, canning, milk separating, etc. was done. This would help keep the house cool, clean and free from flies during the hot summer months when flies were a continuous menace before the age of pesticides and sprays. All these buildings are still in use today in reasonably good shape, although a new house is now under construction by the new owners, Steve and Corrinne Chernuka, who bought the farm from Mrs. Doris Erickson, (Lawrence's widow) in 1974.

Besides his farming activities, Oscar found time to supervise road work in the Willow Creek area. He also became a pound keeper for stray animals, a position he maintained with the municipality until his death in 1958 when it was taken over by his son, Raymond, until it was discontinued in 1975.

Though the 1920's were profitable years when



Father's Day June 21, 1953
Back Row: Oscar Erickson, Olive Swanson, Maynard Erickson,
Lawrence Erickson, Mrs. Maynard (Lily) Erickson, Carl Swanson,
Raymond Erickson holding daughter Lorna. 2nd Row: (seated):
Gordon Swanson, Dale Swanson (standing) Eddy Nystrom, Jim
Erickson standing behind Eddy, Violet Nystrom, Mrs. Raymond
Erickson. Front Row: Glen Nystrom, Leonard Swanson, Alan Nystrom,
Neale Nystrom.

things seemed to move ahead smoothly, the 1930's were the exact opposite. The '30's brought the depression with hard times, heartache and hospital bills. Daughter Vi was stricken with polio and was hospitalized for many months.. 1932 brought a hailstorm that completely wiped out the bumper crop that was coming up and Oscar's wife, Annie succumbed to cancer the same year. With all these added expenses and a loan to pay back for the land he had bought, times were hard indeed. It took a lot of struggling, hard work and determination to keep going, but with the co-operation and help from his family and friends and also the help of The Debt Adjustment Board that was set up by the Alberta Government, the family managed to get through the depression years.

In 1933 Maynard married Lily Lindahl and built a small house on the home place intending to build on the south quarter when times improved. He planted a shelterbelt where the yard was to be, but abandoned his plans moved to Edmonton in the early '40's where he worked at the Municipal Airport until his retirement in 1974. He then moved to Ardrossan where he passed away following a car accident in 1975. They had 2 children, Douglas and Joyce.

Oscar sold 80 acres of the south quarter to Herman Weiting in the early '40's and when Raymond returned from overseas after the war, the remaining land was divided between Raymond and Lawrence Lawrence married Doris Jacobson of the Willow Creek district in 1943 and farmed the home place until his untimely death in 1960, leaving his widow and 2 school age children, Jimmy and Linda. Mrs. Doris Erickson continued to live there until her children were grown and in 1974 sold the farm to Steve Chernuka and is now residing in Innisfail.

Raymond put up a set of buildings on the south 80, where Maynard had intended to build, and in 1949 married Elsie Sund of the Glen Park district. Raymond and his wife still reside there, as do their daughter and son-in-law, Lorna and Leverne Holland, their only child.

Olive married Carl Swanson of the Buford district in 1940 where they raised three sons, Gordon, Leonard and Dale. Violet became Mrs. Eddy Nystrom, also in 1940, residing for a time in Glen Park and Thorsby, then moving to Calmar where they have made their home for the past 30 years and where they raised their three sons, Alan, Neale and Glen.

In 1952, Oscar leased out the oil rights on his farm but was never fortunate enough to have them come and drill. This unexpected cash enabled him to make more improvements to the home that he shared with his son Lawrence and family. As this was the year that the Rural Electriciation Association was installing electricity for the local farmers, Oscar took it in although he had enjoyed electricity for several years, having installed a 32 volt system previously. At this time they also put in running water in their home, complete with bathroom, bought a new car and a

lakefront lot from Fjaller Johnson at Pigeon Lake. He proceeded to build a cabin on the lot there to enjoy during his leisure years and as a legacy to his children and grandchildren after him. It is still in the Erickson family.

Oscar will always be remembered as a kind hearted person who enjoyed life, always willing to help others and remained active to the end. He made only one trip back to Minnesota in 1938, exactly 40 years after he left, to visit his 2 sisters and their families who remained there. He passed away in June of 1958, after a brief illness.

RAYMOND ERICKSON FAMILY

by Elsie Erickson

Raymond was born Dec. 16, 1911, son of Oscar and Annie Erickson of the Willow Creek district. He attended school at Willow Creek and worked on his dad's farm after he finished school. He remembers the times as being much slower and a more relaxed pace than they are today. Even though farmers did not have the big power machinery that they have to work with today, and farming was done mainly with horses. A farmer used to have time to stop and chat or have coffee with his neighbor across the fence while their horses rested. Now there seems to be no time to as much as wave to a neighbor, let alone visit with him. It seems that the bigger and more powerful the machinery and the faster the land can be covered, the less time there is.

Besides helping his dad on the farm, Raymond worked at a number of jobs. He worked quite a lot for Oscar Westlund drilling water wells for many farmers in the area. During the early '40s until he was called into the army, he worked at the Calmar Creamery, which was then under the management of Walter Perley.

On Jan. 12, 1944 Raymond enlisted in Calgary and took his basic training at Grande Prairie along with Roy Anderson of Glen Park. They also spent some



Oscar Westlund, left, Raymond Erickson, right, with Oscar Westlunds well drilling rig, during 1930's.



Lorna and Leverne Holland, daughter of Raymond and Elsie Erickson.

time at Currie Barracks in Calgary as well as Prince Rupert and Terrace, B.C. before leaving for overseas on Jan. 31, 1945. Raymond remembers the boat, the 'Ile de France' being struck by a torpedo, but as it did not explode it did not do too much damage to the boat. It gave them a bit of a scare, and a taste of what they might expect when they got into the thick of it.

The early part of 1945 was spent in England, where Raymond was accidentally wounded by shrapnel from a bakelite grenade when the man marching behind him on parade kicked at what turned out to be a live grenade and it exploded. After his recovery, he was put on the list of reinforcements to be sent to the front lines in Germany just before the war ended on May 8, 1945. A week later he was sent to continental Europe with the Regina Rifle Regiment to serve in the Canadian Occupation Forces, landing in Belgium and working their way through Holland and into Germany. He remembers staying at a unit stationed at a school where they were holding German war criminal, Kurt Meyers as prisoner.

While overseas, he met several acquaintances from home including Floyd Modin, Clair Pearson and Alan Hoffman from the Glen Park and Calmar area, Bill Scobie, Alvin Olson and Arnie Munden from the Sunnybrook-Warburg area as well as many others. During this time he was able to take two leaves, one of which he spent at Loch Lomond and Glasgow, Scotland. Here he was surprised to meet Tofen Doblanko of Calmar who was stationed at Greenoch at the time so he was able to spend a couple of days with him. On the other leave, he visited Denmark with an American army tour as the Canadians did not have a leave centre there. He returned home on the 'New Amsterdam' in Apr. 1946.

While he was with the Regina Rifles overseas, he made two very good friends, John Fluter of Bjorkdale, Saskatchewan and Michael Hudema from Manning, Alberta, but after their discharge, he lost track of Fluter though he knew that Hudema had a service station at Manning. While in the Peace River area in 1976, Raymond decided to go to Manning and visit Hudema but learned that he had moved to Kelowna.

B.C. While visiting in Kelowna in May 1978, Raymond determined to look up Hudema which he did and was surprised to learn that John Fluter also lived there. A reunion was arranged at Hudema's home and to make things even more exciting, they were interviewed by the local TV station and appeared on the 'Hourglass' program on CHBC Kelowna as well as getting their pictures printed in the Kelowna Daily Courier on May 4, 1978.

After his discharge from the army, Raymond bought land from his dad and a new tractor and plow through the V.L.A. and started farming on his own, 80 acres on NE 4-49-27-W4, and 60 acres on SE 9-48-27-W4. As there were no buildings on this land, his first stop was to build a barn on the south 80 and fix up an old granary for himself to live in. In 1949 he married Elsie Sund of the Glen Park district. After their marriage, Raymond bought the old house from his uncle Andrew Erickson, built originally by his grandparents around the turn of the century after they moved here from Minnesota. The 2 room addition that had been added at a later date, was removed from the original log house and this became Raymond and Elsie's home for the first three years of their marriage. The original log house was used for a chicken house. A daughter Lorna, an only child, was born in April 1951.

In 1950, a group of Willow Creek and Glen Park farmers including Raymond, got together and bought a timber limit from John Bilik of Breton. They set up a camp there with Mrs. Lloyd (Angela) Pearson of Willow Creek as cook, and spent the following winter cutting logs with Mr. Ole Hallan doing the sawing for them.

In the spring of 1951, Raymond began a new house on the farm with Julius Dahl as carpenter. That fall a great deal of the crop was snowed under and the stooks were not threshed till the following spring. 1952 proved to be a good growing year with a bumper crop coming up until a hailstorm came along just before harvest and wiped it out completely. Not Having any harvesting to do that fall, Raymond



Raymond Erickson on violin and his wife Elsie on the accordian with cousin Walter Sorenson on the piano. June 1972.

had time to finish building his house and the Rural Electrification Association installed Calgary Power in the homes of the local farmers including the Ericksons just before Christmas of the same year. But with all these expenses plus a few hospital bills and with no crop, things were not all smooth sailing for the Ericksons. To compensate, Raymond had to find work outside the farm. He worked at odd jobs for Texaco in and around the Wizard Lake oilfield for several years. including the laving of a gas pipeline from the Bonnie Glen gas plant, across Wizard Lake, to the railroad terminal just east of Buford. He worked on the construction of a new grain elevator at Buford following a fire that had destroyed two elevators there during the early '50s. In between times, he helped Ernest and Arnie Erickson drill water wells around the country all the while caring for a mixed farm which included a small dairy.

Farming was not all work. During the early '50s, the Willow Creekers organized a community and square dance club to which Raymond and Elsie belonged. They remember taking square dance lessons 3 nights a week during a prolonged cold spell when the thermometer dropped below -40 degrees F., bundling up their infant daughter Lorna and taking her along. Elsie also belonged to the Willow Creek Ladies Club, being an active member for many years. Both enjoyed music and with Raymond on the violin. Elsie on the accordian and Ray Pearson on the guitar, they entertained at many local parties and dances. During this time they managed to get away on several trips which included other provinces as well as the northern States. In 1969, they took a longer trip which took them to the Hawaiian Islands and in 1972 on a motor trip as far south as Mexico City and Puorto Vallarta, Mexico.

They continued to farm until 19⁻¹ when they sold their dairy herd and in 19⁻², Raymond rented out his land but has continued to live in his farm home. Following his retirement from farming, he worked for a few years with the County of Leduc which included such jobs as weed inspector and the spraying of shelterbelts. He also worked with the Warble Control division of the Dept. of Agriculture at auction marts in the County until he was old enough for his old age security pension.

Lorna attended school at Calmar and completed her grade 12 at Leduc High. In 1969 she married Leverne Holland of the Bonnie Glen district. They lived four years in Edmonton where two sons were born, Kevin in 1970 and Gregory in 1971. In 1973 they bought a mobile home and moved it to Raymond and Elsie's farmyard, where they continue to live, Leverne commuting to work at Sherwood Park where he is employed by Alberta Government Telephones.

In Nov. 19⁻⁴, Raymond and Elsie celebrated their silver wedding anniversary at the Glen Park hall with a crowd of over 200 friends and relatives in attendance. Over a 25 year period they have seen many great improvements in the farm home which were not

available to them when they were married in 1949, which included electricity, first and foremost. Electricity made lighter work of farming in many ways but especially was it appreciated when it came to milking cows. It also made many other improvements in the home available such as hot and cold running water, inside bathroom, television as well as a host of electrical appliances. The installation of natural gas to the local farmers in 1968 was a great asset which did away with the need of a wood pile and the coal bin in the basement with the resultant dust and ash accumulation. The basement was now fixed up and used for added rooms. They continue to live on the farm that they have built up with the toil of their own hands and feel no need to move anywhere else as long as they are able to keep it up.

ANNA EVANSON (DICKSON)

by Anna Evanson

In 1902, when I was only 7 years old, I left Sweden with my parents Annie and Andrew Dickson and 5 brothers and sisters. I was the oldest and then there were Oscar, Erick, the twins Valfrid and Arvid, and one sister Hilma.

We came to North Dakota where Father's brothers Pete and Erik were already settled in a sod shack. There we lived in a granary. Father did some carpenter work and we stayed about a year before coming by train to Canada where our uncle Ole Dickson met us in Leduc with his team and wagon. We headed west. The trail was rough and muddy and sometimes water reached up to the wagon box. We spent the first night with Paulsons. Next day we came through what is Calmar today; only a small blacksmith shop owned by a Mr. Peterson. We arrived at Andrew Erickson's. Mrs. Erickson was Mother's aunt. It was a great feeling to come to a Swedish settlement where there were trees and cows and cowbells. What a change after coming from that bleak prairie in North Dakota! We got settled in an old Osterberg shack near the Willow Creek School.

Father filed on a homestead 2 or 3 miles west in the wilderness and soon put up a frame house and a little log barn and we got settled with a few cows and a few chickens. We did not have a clock or a calendar.

It was here that Ellen, Mina, Edna, and Arnie were born.

Father was away from home most of the time doing carpenter work in Stettler and Mother was alone with 8 of us children. One early morning in April Mother got up to see why the cows were around the house--they stood there excited, looking towards the barn. When she stepped down off the steps she saw a big brown bear. It reared up on its hind legs and then it wandered away. During the day Mother told Oscar and me to walk to Ole Dickson's and to Westlund's for help because we knew one of them



Andrew Dickson & Son. Oscar Plowing with oxen.



At Lundblads.
Wilfred & Arvid on outside, then Adolph Lundblad on horse. Alla W.,
Annie L., Elsie K., Esther W., Ellen L., Anie K., and Gust Evanson. Front:
Walter Ingers, Erwin Anderson and Emil Lundblad.

would have a gun. Ole said he would come over later in the evening. But that old bear was ready to come back, and by 6 o'clock we heard the 4 boys screaming and running for the house. They had been sawing wood between the house and barn. Mother ran to the door and they just got inside when Mother shut the door on the bear's snout. He was wild, clawing up on the door and up on the windows and we screamed. Mother told us to be quiet and when we did, the bear quietened down but still clawed away at the door. Mother never left the door and I remember her getting down on her knees to pray to God for help. The old bear went between the house and barn and up on the roof where he had dug out the hay and rails above the chicken roost the night before and got 3 chickens. Time passed and it got dark and what a relief when Ole came, but he was only carrying an axe. Mother and Ole were up all night. He would step out pounding his axe to scare the bear away and the bear finally left. When morning came we all walked home with Ole. That same evening the bear was back. He broke the window in the barn and got in and killed the calf and the chickens. A hen and a few chicks were all drowned in a pail of water left in there, and then he dragged the calf through that

small window and left it behind the barn in the tall slough grass. We didn't go back there to live that summer. We moved into an empty shack across from Erik Ohrn until fall when Father came home and brought with him a big rifle.

Father bought 3 oxen to break an acre or two of sod on that homestead and Oscar and I would have to haul hay home for the cows with them. We also used them to go visiting our neighbors.

People had to find strange ways of travelling in those days. Mr. England, our neighbor, owned a team of horses but when one of them died he came to our homestead driving one horse and a white milk cow. How we laughed!

I remember one cold day in January. I had to take Father to Leduc because he had to go to work. We drove the old horse and cutter. It was so cold it just squeaked under the runners. That night I stayed at Lunds in Leduc hoping the weather would warm up before I started the trip back home, but the next morning it was just as cold so they heated bricks to keep my feet warm and at 10 o'clock I left for home. By the time I got to Chrunik's I stopped the old mare in the middle of the trail which is now Highway 39, and ran in there to warm myself and the mare never moved. I could not make the old mare trot one step of the way home so it was dark before I got back to the homestead. I had not seen one person on the road all



Andrew Lindberg, Dan Evenson, Johnny Erickson, Andrew Anderson in 1909.



Back Row: Hal Phillips, Andrew Anderson, Dan Evanson, Harry Moore, Johnny Erickson. Front Row: Stanley Blondheim, Len Postle and Rye - 1908.

day. It was a terrible trip and I know I must have been close to freezing to death.

In 1907 Father sold the homestead and bought a C.P.R. quarter of land and soon built a frame house. We were happy to leave that homestead and get into a good Swedish settlement with relatives and friends. It was here Elsie, Lillian and Ray were born. We all grew up there and went to school at Willow Creek. Ray still farms the homeplace.

In 1912 on a beautiful day in December I was married to Dan Evanson at the Lutheran Church in Willow Creek.

As there was no snow yet, our friends and relatives came with their horse and buggies. There were so many that there was a solid line of buggies for 2 miles from the church to the Dickson home for the reception and dance. The dance was held outside.

Dan had a homestead in the Telford district where we lived. Dan cut willow posts in the winter and sold them in Millet to buy groceries. Later we sold the homestead and Dan bought his father's farm where our son Clare and his family still live.

We have 4 children-Dorothy, who lives in Edmonton, Inez and Vivian, who met and married American servicemen, and 1 son Clare.

Dan passed away in 1958 and I was left alone in my home in Calmar where I still live with 3 of my sisters nearby.

THE MARTIN EVENSON STORY

by daughter Verna Scott

Recently at my father's 88th birthday party, I had the experience of entering a time capsule dated 1890-1920. Martin Evenson had been born in Delamere, North Dakota on April 17, 1890 and was destined to be one of the pioneers of the Calmar area.

Before the Frederickson, Blomquist and Johnson families came from the States in 1898, there had been Rosso in 1894 and Buckell, Wilkerson and Tom

Wilson in 1895. Dad remembers a "one-armed Duncan" (Robert?) who had driven a team consising of a cow and a horse to Conjuring Creek. Dad worked for him from 1899 until 1904. Between the ages of 9 and 14, Dad cleared 10 acres for Duncan and received as payment an old horse and \$15.00. But he eventually raised a team from this horse. Later Mr. Duncan married and had a boy and 2 girls, 1 of whom owned the corner lot east of Adelaide Groat's house in Mulhurst. Mr. Duncan himself met a tragic end.

When Gunerius and Ann Evenson came, they lived with the Fransen's in the log house of Robert Postle who came in March 1895. They built on their

homestead NE 20-49-26-W4.

The first school west and south of Leduc was #15 Conjuring Creek, April 8, 1896, in the community building which had been built as a church. Edward T. Buckell, C.J. Blomquist and Swan Olson were signatories. When the "new Conjuring Creek School" was built in 1922, Martin bought the old building, moved it 1 mile west to his farm and remodelled it turning it into a modern pig barn, built onto it on the east and west and installed running water. This was a unique set-up in those days.

Martin had bought SE 49-27-W4 from "Ted" Buckell who had purchased it from the C.P.R. Martin married Helena Gregg whose family lived on the NW

13, (the Merriweather place), at that time.

One of the sources of entertainment for the men, besides soccer and ball games between Calmar and Conjuring Creek, was the broomball competition. The "elevator" men devised some dangerous equipment by wetting and freezing the elevator brooms which sometimes were already wrapped in tape. These were hard to tolerate so the farm men developed some special technique to help themselves to stand up during competitions. Martin was rather inventive!

From my Grandmother's Bible comes this information: "Gunerius Evenson og Histru (wife) Anne Danelson

Edvart Morgan od (Born) April 6, 1885 died July 1, 1885; Dan Edwin (born) April 11, 1886; John Melvin (born) April 22, 1888; Martin (born) April 17, 1890; Matilda (born) July 22, 1891; Gustav Adolf (born) Jan. 24, 1893; Olga Maria (born) July 2, 1895; Agust Herman (born) Oct. 8, 1897; (These were born in N. Dakota.)

Axel Chornelius (born) Aug. 25, 1900; Anie Matilda (born Nov. 16, 1901; Axel Wilhelm (born) Sept. 3, 1903; Anie Melvina (born) Feb. 27, 1905; Oscar (born) Nov. 4, 1907 . . . Mrs. Evenson (born) July 25, 1863"

Even with 13 children born to this union, the Evenson name (as far as we can now trace), seems to remain with the son of Martin and Nancy(nee Meaver) named Walter Martin Evenson of Barrons, Alberta and his 2 sons, Walter Carl and Lorne Martin, and nephew Clare of Calmar.

Not much trace of the "hard" times exist around

the Calmar homesteads now. No bush that once was grubbed by hand, but thick black productive soil and indications of black "gold" from below the ground-riches undreamed of by those early pioneers.

Henry told of the rescuing of his brother's coffin from floating down the creek while the funeral procession was attempting to cross. When he was 10, he had a trap line, caught weasels to sell to Len Postle. He trapped rabbits for the family to eat too. Once he took a live rabbit from a trap and while carrying it home alive, a weasel jumped on the back of his neck. Obviously it wanted the rabbit. It rode there all the way home, brother John then grabbed it and killed it. He even saved the rabbit too. Weasels sold for up to \$1.00. Henry told of Gunerius Evenson's team of oxen being sold at his sale for \$600.00. Some farmer named Holloway had a team of cows that he drove. He recalled Alvina going with the buggy to Bill Kruger's. The horse ran the buggy into the creek, by what is now Mike Woitas'. The buggy shaft was broken so Alvina unhitched the horse and rode it home in a "lather".

Present at Martin's birthday party were his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, a remaining brother Oscar and sister Anne Benedetto. His sister-in-law, Anne Evenson (nee Dickson) from Calmar, and some of her family were also present. Hugh Forbes, brother-in-law by his first marriage, and some of his family also paid their regards.

Some pioneers gained recognition in those days as athletes; Alfred Buckell athlete, school teacher and later a surgeon in California; Hugh Forbes, who came to Canada in 1902, ran 5 times around the Leduc track on May 24, 1911 (about 5 miles) and came in second to

win a gold medal.

Another guest at the home of Hazel and John Pasula for the birthday celebration was Daisy Swanson, once Mrs. Andrew Anderson (nee Cornell). Hughie Forbes reminded Daisy that he had helped shingle the house for Andrew in 1916 in readiness for their marriage. Daisy Cornell, born in Ponoka July 5, 1892, taught at the Willow Creek School from Jan. to June of 1912. Her 4 oldest girls were Hazel Phillips, Ellen Lundblad, Annie Kvarnberg and Esther Westlund. She was a student teacher at that time, but returned to teach at Willow Creek in 1913-14. After her marriage to Andrew in 1917, she taught at Conjuring Creek. Andrew had come in 1897-1898.

Evelyn and Francis Meaver came with Edith Lindberg from Mulhurst to wish Martin greetings. They are wives of Simon and Dan Meaver and Helmer Lindberg, all descendents of oldtimers of this

communtiy.

Coming out of the "time capsule", I meditate on the history of our folks. How precious the memories they have to give us. This is one of the reasons for preserving information for our children.

JOHN FORS STORY

by son Wilfred Fors

John Fors, a sturdy Swedish Finlander, migrated from DeLamere, North Dakota in 1901 with his wife Selma Maire and 3 children Elvira, Henry and Adina. For 12 years he had struggled on gumbo land plagued by drought and hail.

The Canadian Government conducted an extensive advertising campaign in the 1890's hoping to lure more homesteaders to Canada. Several neighbors in the DeLamere area went up to the Leduc area and brought back fine samples of wheat. As a result, John Fors and family homesteaded on the NW 14-49-27 W4. This land is still in the family. It was a struggle for survival in wild bush country with only trails as roads. The old Pigeon Lake Trail crossed the farm and on numerous occasions, Indians would stop at the Fors homestead to trade fish for butter.

In the ensuing years, 5 other children were born: Ina, William, Ebba, Wilfred and Gladys. Elvira married Emil Anderson in 1917 and is presently living on the farm 1 mile north of the homestead. Henry farmed for a time, was a forest ranger and in his later years lived at home until his death in 1959. Ebba died at the age of 14 in the flu epidemic of 1918. William also farmed, then moved to Edmonton where he worked for a number of years at Woodward's. He passed away in 1976. Adina, Ina and Wilfred graduated from Camrose Normal School. Adina taught in Willow Creek for a brief period until the school was closed due to the flu epidemic. Ina taught for many years in Weed Creek, Bonnie Glen and Kulm School Districts. Adina, Ina, Wilfred and Gladys are living in Edmonton.

15 YEARS IN THE THORSBY AREA.

My first school as a teacher was Dniester. On Sept. 1927, I faced 56 pupils, Grades 1-8 in double desks. Little did I realize that I would continue teaching for 44 years until my retirement in 1971. I recall how, at the end of the first day, I wandered down a cow path, sat down on a log, plucked a few blueberries, contemplating whether I should stay or go back to the farm.

Needless to say, I stayed for a year and enjoyed it. When I approached the local board for a raise, 1 board member was noncommittal another said, "I think we should get a cheaper teacher", but the third said, "No! I move that Fors be paid \$1000.00 instead of \$900.00,

because a cheap teacher teaches cheap."

I still recall many family names after 52 years — Fink, Pankewicz, Kobeluck, Meckle, Radowits, Mudry, Beirbach, Kuzio and Chrunik. Life was simple, money was scarce but people were happy. Community life centered around the churches, picnics, school concerts and dances.

Young people would hitch up a team of horses to a bob sleigh and drive to Sunnybrook dance hall or to other school dances such as in Capbillion School. Nels Koppang or local musicians supplied the music, until

the wee small hours of the morning.



Willow Creek School Students - 1938 with teachers W.R. Fors and E.A. Westlund.

For the first week I stayed with the Fink family. Later I batched above the school or drove my 1921 Model T Ford back and forth to Weed Creek where I stayed with my sister Ina and her husband Melvin Anderson. I paid Hiram Helgren \$75.00 for that car, equipped with a self starter and a take down top.

In the fall of 1928, I moved back to the farm from where I walked 23/4 miles across country to Willow Creek going through the Knull, Hartman and Westlund farms. I tore more than 1 pair of pants in the 13 fences. I used skis or snowshoes in the winter. I spent 14 years at Willow Creek as principal, except for a brief period at Coal Branch where I was postmaster and teacher during the last half of 1929.

With the excellent co-operation of fellow teachers, Tillie Erickson (nee Knutson) Ernest Westlund, Mrs. McDonald and Alice Evanson (nee Anderson) we were able to institute many school projects. Many former pupils will recall the fine girls' basketball team of the 1930's, as well as the unbeaten Willow Creek "Invincibles" baseball team. Tillie Erickson brought the first moving pictures to Willow Creek from the Dept. of Extension, University of Alberta. Later Mr. LaRose from Thorsby supplied fine entertainment with a variety of sound films.

Whist drives and dances were a regular feature of entertainment and recreation. These made it possible

to finance such student projects as a tennis court and skating rink. Westlund Bros. kindly loaned us a truck to haul red shale from Conjuring Lake for the tennis court. Ekstrom Bros. supplied shavings from their planer mill with which the students insulated the attic.



Willow Creek Band 1921.
Top Row: Left to Right: Eddie Erickson, Eric Dixon, Eddie Lindberg and Helmer Lindberg. Middle Row: Percy Sandstrom, Wm. Fors, Rudolph Falk, Arivd Dixon, Arnie Dixon. Bottom Row: Wilfred Dixon and Harold Phillips on drums.

They packed them in sacks, went up a ladder and spread them over both ceilings. It did help to keep us from having to cluster around the heaters until noon in sub-zero weather.

In 1934 over 100 trees were planted along the west and north sides of the school yard. They are still a part of Willow Creek Community Park. 1935 was the year that saw the Social Credit landslide with rumors of the impending new school divisions. In 1937 the local board did considerable renovations to the school. The big central chimney which was such an obstruction during school concerts was replaced with two corner chimneys. A swinging partition above the dividing doors was installed and Emil Kvarnberg designed the trusses which presently support the whole roof.

Besides teaching the basics, we endeavored to teach good sportsmanship. On numerous occasions visiting schools would come to play ball. It was not uncommon for boys to walk across country to Conjuring Creek or Progress schools for a ball game. At other times we would pile into cars and go to Kulm or Wilton Park schools.

I consider the years I spent at Willow Creek to be the best years of my teaching career. This was due to the cooperation of parents, teachers and students. It was indeed gratifying to see pupils start in the Junior Room and graduate from the High School grades in the Senior Room.

I left Willow Creek in 1943 and moved to various schools in the Clover Bar School Division. I joined the Edmonton Public School Board staff in 1954 rounding out the last seventeen years in Edmonton High Schools retiring in 1971.

ALBERT AND EBBA FRIEND

by Astrid Friend

Albert Friend, whose parents were Sarah and Asa Friend, was born in Clayton, Iowa in the summer of 1908. In 1909 the Friends moved to Lavina, Montana where they farmed successfully for a number of years until a prolonged drought forced them to move again. In 1923 they came to Alberta and, although they had planned to live at Buford, they ended up at Rainier, now called St. Francis, and a few years later they moved to a farm at Genesee.

Ebba Osbak was born in the Pemburton Hill district, the fourth child and the youngest daughter of Carl and Oata Osbak. She spent her school days at the Templeton School. Upon completion of school she worked at various places in the district.

On February 6, 1939 Albert and Ebba were married. They lived on Albert's farm during the summer. In the winter Albert worked at Ole Hallan's sawmill. The following 2 winters they moved to Edmonton where Albert was employed at Coutts Foundry. During this time their 2 oldest daughters



Amber, Wayne, Albert and Ebba, and Debbie (1960).

were born, Shirley and Virginia. In the spring of 1943 they moved to Fort Resolution, N.W.T. where he was employed by the Fort Resolution Lumber Co. While they lived at Fort Resolution their only son Wayne was born.

In 1944 the Friends and their 3 children returned to their farm at Genesee and farmed until the fall of 1946. Their third daughter Amber was born during this time.

By this time, Albert realized that farming was not his cup of tea. He was hooked on sawmills. The chugging of the engine and the shrill whine of the saws was sweet music to his ears. They sold the farm and moved to Minstrel Island, B.C. where he worked for Allan McDonald, formerly of Telfordville.

It was at this time that Albert's health began to fail and he found it difficult to remain steadily employed. They moved to Salt Springs Island, then later to Savona inthe interior of B.C. where he worked as a millwright. The ever present wood dust did not agree with his respiratory system so he decided he must stop working in the mills.

In 1951 they purchased the 59 Mile House on the Caribou Highway, about 10 miles from the town of Clinton, B.C. The 59 Mile House was an old landmark from the early days and had been a stopping place for the teamsters who drove the Conestoga wagons hauling freight. It had been noted for its fine hospitality and excellent food. When Albert and Ebba bought it, the original building had long since burned to the ground and now it consisted of a filling station, a lunch counter and a small motel. A few groceries were also dispensed there. Here, the Friends' fifth and last child Deborah was born.

By this time Albert's health had deteriorated to the point that he was frequently critically ill and hospitalized, and at times not expected to live. Somehow he always managed to rally and get home to his family.

In 1956 the 59 Mile House was sold to Ralph and Jean Friend and Albert and Ebba moved to Garibaldi, B.C. where he worked on the Garibaldi Dam project while Ebba operated the Garibaldi store and postoffice. When the dam was completed they

purchased a general store at Brackendale, B.C. and also operated the post office. In 1960 Albert became very ill and they decided to return to Alberta. They traded their store to Adrian Tuttle for a farm which he still owned at Genesee.

They were not there very long before they realized it was impossible for Albert to cope with a farm, so they had an auction sale to dispose of their cattle and machinery, but kept the farm. That fall they purchased a small general store at Buford from Mr. and Mrs. John Terlesky. Here, besides selling groceries, they operated the post office, the gas pumps and also delivered bulk gas. This was in the fall of 1961.

Their house on the farm was rented to Howard and Marie Moeller. While they lived there a fire of unknown origin destroyed the "Old Tuttle House" as it was locally known and which had been built by Asa Friend. The house was well insured and this enabled Albert to replace it by working on the new house himself. When the new house was completed he sold the farm to Mr. J. Mychalysyn.

The Friends felt the Buford store was too small for their needs so Albert started a new building, working on it whenever his health permitted. He was destined to leave it unfinished as he passed away very suddenly on the morning of July 14, 1962. He was laid to rest in the Genesee cemetery.

Ebba was most fortunate in having kind and sympathetic neighbors who rallied around and completed the store. She continued with the help of her children to operate the Buford store until the spring of 1964 when she sold it to Mr. and Mrs. L. Stepanko. Ebba then returned to British Columbia with her daughters Amber and Debbie since that was where her 2 oldest daughters lived. Her son Wayne remained in Alberta until the next year when he also returned to B.C. obtaining employment in the logging camps at Squamish.

Ebba worked as a practical nurse in hospitals at Essondale, Lilloet and Nelson. It was work that she loved.

Wayne passed away suddenly in 1970 and was survived by his wife Heather and small son Monty.

About a year later, Ebba was in a serious car accident and although she made a good recovery, she found she was unable to cope with a nurse's work in the hospitals.

In 1974 she obtained work in the Alpine Lodge at Garibaldi, B.C. and has worked there over the past 4 years. Her employer is Douglas McDonald, a son of Allan McDonald. Ebba's home is in Brackendale. Her 4 daughters are all married and live at various points in British Columbia.

THE OLE HALLAN STORY

by Alice Moberg

Ole Hallan came from Norway in 1927 to Albert



L. to R. Rear: Johnny MacDonald, Ole Hallan. Front: Bill Snider, Dickie Shave & Fraser Hallan in truck box.

Engberg's in Calmar. He worked for various farmers in the area. One year, along with other Norwegian's Alfred Olsen, and Harry Engberg, they cleared a total of 160 acres with axe and grub hoe at \$8.00 per acre.

When there was no work to be had, Alfred and Ole took up homesteads west of Drayton Valley where they spent the winters, and in summers washed gold along the North Saskatchewan River.

In 1938, Ole married Alice Ekstrom of Willow Creek and for the first few years had a sawmill and planer. They sold first grade spruce at \$8.00 per M (planed at \$12.00). He also did custom sawing for the settlers around Warburg for \$3.00 per M. For several winters he contracted logging and sawing for Pearson Bros. of Breton at Buck Creek, employing some 25 men - mostly farmers in the area.

For a time, they lived at Buford where they had a chop-mill and planer. Upon acquiring a Caterpillar tractor and brush breaker, he cleared a lot of land in the Glen Park and Thorsby districts. The year Devon was built up, he dug the basements for the first 50 houses.

In 1948, the Hallans moved to Thorsby where their 2 children were born. Along with Charlie Lindahl they formed the Warburg Sand and Gravel Co. and for



Harry Engberg, Ole Hallan and Alfred Olsen - 1928.

many years built roads for the oil companies. In the winter months Ole was caretaker at the Curling Rink. A community-minded man, he dug and backfilled the basement for the Thorsby Community Centre, donating his machine and time.

One interesting incident occurred when he was levelling the gravel inside Bilar's Garage, and the cat sank into an old well, but the dozer blade held him up.

In 1960, as well as in 1970, he had the opportunity to visit his homeland of Norway and the last time, he took his children.

Ole passed away in 1971 and his widow later married Art Moberg of Leduc. Marie and her family live in Spruce Grove and Fraser lives in Calgary.

STEVE HARRISH AND FAMILY

In 1908, Mr. Nick Harrish and his five sons, John, Steve, Ilco, Ignat and Fred boarded a ship in Austria. It took 14 days to reach Quebec, and from there they came to Leduc by train, and settled on a farm south of Thorsby. Steve Harrish was eight years old when they arrived in Canada.



Steve Harrish's 60th Birthday.

He attended school in Weed Creek in 1910, the year the school was opened. As a young boy he spent a lot of time babysitting for neighbours, while their parents were out working in the fields. In return, he received his board and some clothing. During 1918 he acted as nurse, cook and choreboy for several families while they were down with the flu. Later he worked in the coal mine at Lethbridge and also for a short while on the railroad.

In 1922, Steve married Mary Terlesky. For a couple of years they both worked on farms in the Nisku, Leduc, Winterburn and Monitor areas. In 1924 they bought a farm (from the C.P.R.) several miles east of Thorsby. In addition to farming, Steve worked on the railroad for the C.P.R.

Life was not without hardships for the Harrish family, for their house and all its contents burned in



Steve Harrish's new house on the farm after their old house was destroyed by fire.

1934. They rebuilt and farmed until 1944. At this time he sold his farm to Walter Nacuk and bought about two acres of land from Albin Markstedt and moved to Buford. He continued to work for the railway until 1956. That year Mary passed away. Steve retired and continued to make his home in Buford until his death in 1971.

Steve and Mary had a family of three daughters and one son. They all attended Progress School. Elizabeth (Elsie), the oldest of the family, was born in 1922. She started her grade 9 in Thorsby in 1938, but was unable to continue as she and her sister Livia became very ill with typhoid fever. Doctor Hankin paid daily visits to their house and was able to pull them through. The Harrishes held the highest regard for the Thorsby doctor. Elsie married Reinhold Ruff in 1940 and they had a family of three girls and one son: Paulette, Sylvia, Judy, and James (Jim). In Jan. 1978, Elsie passed away, and Reinhold continues to live at Buford, in the former Steve Harrish home.

Livia was born in 1927. She married Almar Westermark in 1948 and they made their first home in Leduc. Shortly after this, they moved to Devon for a few years and later to Buford for a short time where Livia worked at the Buford General Store. Almar's job took them to Red Deer and then on to Calgary. In 1968, Livia suddenly passed away leaving two children who have since married. LeRoy and his wife Midge and three daughters live in Devon; and Linda and her husband Brad are at Lloydminster.

Amelia (Emily), the youngest of the Steve Harrish family, was born in 1928. She married Mike Lyka and lived in Buford. In 1961 they moved to Thorsby with their two children, David and Cathie. In 1975 Mike passed away.

Paul was born in 1924. At an early age he started trucking. He also worked for the Municipal District of Leduc, operating heavy equipment on the road constuction in this area. In 1947 he married Aldona Halwa, and they lived with his parents. Later they moved to the city for a few months but returned to Buford and moved a small house on to his Dad's (Steve



Steve Harrish Family. Standing: Elsie (Mrs. R. Ruff), Steve, Paul. Seated on arm of chair: L. to R.: Livia (Mrs. E. Westermark), Amilia (Mrs. M. Lyka). Seated in chair: Mary Harrish.

Harrish) property. His father divided his lot and gave half to Paul, and in 1959 Paul and Aldona built a house, where they are presently residing. They have a family of seven children who all attended Calmar School. In 1956, Paul purchased a school bus and is still transporting children to Calmar School. In addition, he is employed part-time with the County of Leduc as a grader operator, and is also in a trucking business with his oldest son Sidney who now drives the gravel truck.

Sidney was born in 1947. He is married to Janice Sekora and they have three children. They too live in Buford on the Harrish property which was further divided.

In 1949, Dwayne was born. Cathy Vogel became his wife in 1973. Dwayne is part-owner of Rose Country Breeders, and recently purchased a farm south of Thorsby, formerly owned by Ignat Yasunsky. Dwayne and Cathy have a family of five.

Calvin born in 1952, is married to Darlene Chimera. They are making their home on the farm of Darlene's Dad (William Chimera) in the Thorsby area. Calvin is employed by C.P. Airlines.

Clifford was born in 1955. At present he is employed by the Government with the Brand Inspection Branch.

In 1958, Paul and Aldona's first daughter, Donna was born. She is employed with Nabor's Drilling Limited at Nisku.

June, born in 1961, and Bonnie in 1963, are both attending High School in Calmar,

THE HOFFMANS (ANTHONY & SELMA)

by Selma Hoffman

I, Selma Hoffman, was born in Rutland, North Dakota and came to the Willow Creek district in 1898 with my parents Andrew and Sarah Westlund. They had emigrated from Sweden to Rutland in the late 1880's. Farming didn't go too well in Rutland because of several successive years of drought. They had heard that good land with plenty of water 11 miles west of



Andrew Westlund farmstead. Home of Selma Westlund (Hoffman), Tilly Westlund (Kvarnberg), Albert and Alvina Westlund.



Early Peddler, Sian Alic Mustephe, stopping at the Westlund home.

Leduc was to be had. This appealed to them so they decided to make the move and settled on a quarter (SE 34-49-27-W4) 3 miles west of Calmar. They never looked back, even if the going was tougher than they expected. There was loneliness and hard work, and no roads, schools, churches or medical services. But there was plenty of determination and grit so we made out quite well for those times. I lost a sister (Elvina) and a brother (Albert) in the flu epidemic in 1918. My only sister, Tillie Kvarnberg, is in Buford.

My husband Tony was born in 1890 in Germany and came to Ellerslie in 1899 with his parents Elizabeth and Joseph Hoffman. From Ellerslie they moved to Fort Saskatchewan and then resided in Edmonton. Tony worked on farms around Fort Saskatchewan and Edmonton.

Tony and I were married in 1920 and made our home on the farm homesteaded by my parents. I feel I have set a record, having lived for 72 consecutive years in the same house my father Andrew Westlund built in 1900.

On June 7, 1970 we celebrated our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary. Our 4 children were present

for this special occasion. Our oldest son Allan married Winnie Hayler and they reside in Powell River, B.C. Garry married Jolene Nash and their home is in Pleasant Hill, California. We have 2 daughters, Eunice (Mrs. Mark Raines) of Burnaby, B.C. and Eleanor (Mrs. Arthur Gittins) in Moscow, Idaho.



Mr. and Mrs. Tony Hoffman, June 7, 1970 on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

In 1972 Tony and I moved into Calmar. Tony passed away in July 1977. I now make my home in Planeview Manor, Leduc (1978).

It is with deep regret that we say Selma Hoffman passed away on Sept. 22, 1978.

CHARLIE JACOBSON

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Jacobson immigrated to Wetaskiwin from Shirburn, Minnesota, in 1902. They filed on a homestead in the Malmo district. In 1919, they moved to the Willow Creek district with a family of 9. Two girls were born after they moved here. The childrens names were; Julia, Ernest, Carl, Laura, Alma, Clara, Bert, Walter, Leon, Ella, and Helen.

Ernest married Annie Lundblad and Laura married Henry Westlund and both families farmed in the Willow Creek district.

ERNEST JACOBSON

Ernest Jacobson married Annie Lundblad in 1921. They lived on the Erickson place for a few years and then moved to the Lundblad home where they still reside. Annie cared for her mother after her dad passed away in 1930. Her mother passed away in 1944. Emil lived with them until he went to the nursing home in 1968. He passed away in 1971.

Ernest and Annie had 3 children - 2 sons, Reginald and Garry, and 1 daughter, Doris. Doris married Lawrence Erickson and farmed on land close to their parents. Lawrence passed away on Oct. 19, 1960 and Doris stayed on the farm until her 2 children, Jimmy and Lynda, were raised, then she sold it and moved away. Reginald and Garry live at home with their parents and do the farming.

RUDOLPH J. KNULL

The Knull family was one of the earlier families to settle in the Calmar area. Having heard from others who had come before them that this was indeed a rich and promising land, they packed their few belongings along with their livestock and began their great adventure.

Rudolph John Knull, who in later years was often called, "R.J." came from Wolynia, Poland where he was born in September 30, 1880 and landed in Canada with his parents, brothers and sisters in 1901. They first settled in the area that later became known as the Gnadenthal district and from there Rudolph got his first homestead south-west of Calmar in 1903. Five years later, on February 28, he married Anna Triechel who had also come with her parents and family from Roddam, Poland in 1901. Large families were not uncommon, but it wasn't everyone who could boast of having first six sons and then five daughters as this family could.

Like most other settlers, the first house was of logs, to be replaced in later years by a larger, two storey frame house which was added to as the family grew.

Our home was a stopping off place for many a cold, weary traveller coming from the west country on their way to Leduc to sell their fence posts, as well as the Watkins and Rawleigh men with their "store on wheels" selling patent medicines, baking supplies and for the children a real treat — a few packages of chewing gum. Church services were held in a neighbouring house, but our home was the gathering place for the family minister and the neighbourhood children every Saturday for Bible school.

It wasn't an easy task grubbing the trees by hand and breaking with horses and hand plough, but with the help of a few husky, hard working immigrants and his own grown sons, more and more land was cleared. Rudolph enjoyed farm life and working with horses. They lived actively on the farm until they retired to the town of Calmar in 1945 to live there until Rudolph's passing on March 30, 1963. Mother Knull lived on in the small house until she moved to Plainview Manor, Leduc in 1974. There she resided until her death on April 29, 1976.

All eleven children attended Willow Creek school; Tillie the youngest, attended Calmar High School for some of her high school grades. At time of writing all eleven children are still alive and have numbered to 28 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren.

Herman, the eldest is semi-retired but still very active and has lived and farmed a few miles south of the town of Thorsby for most of his life. He and his wife Hilda (Meckle) have one son Roy and a daughter Leola.

Edward farmed for a number of years in the Calmar district then in the New Sarepta area. He married Leah Secrest and they have two sons, Richard and Howard. Edward is retired and resides in the town of Camrose.



From L. to R.: Arthur, Harold, Max, Emil, Ed, Hermon, Tillie Conelly, Dolly (Mrs. Roy) Westlin, Ella (Mrs. A.J.) Robinson, Hilda Mrs. (Ken) Blondheim, Hetty (Mrs. Charlie) Torrance.

Emil joined the R.C.M.P. in 1935 and served with them for twenty-eight years. He then worked with the Edmonton City Police for twelve years. He is still very active doing part-time lecturing for the Provincial Government during the winter months. In the summer season he is an active foreman with a road construction firm. He lives in the City of Edmonton with his wife Delia (Matthon). From this marriage were born one daughter Sharon and one son Gary.

Max remained the bachelor in the family. After spending some years in the Canadian Army during World War II, he was employed by Imperial Oil until he retired in the town of Calmar.

Harold left home to work as an egg grader until he joined the Canadian Air Force during World War II. In this service he became a cook and later became the owner of his own fine restaurant in Kamloops, British Columbia. He and his wife Florence (Nadeau) have three in their family — Linda, Robert and Brian.

Arthur took over the family farm when father retired, until ill health required him to retire from farm life. He moved to Wetaskiwin, where he is employed as a maintenance man at the hospital. He married Muriel Maitland and they have four children:



R.J. and Anna Knull and Grandchildren.

Robert, Elizabeth, Randolph and Joyce.

Hetty married Charlie Torrance, a farmer in the Wizard Lake district. They have three children — Arvilla, Gloria and Stanley.

Hilda married Ken Blondheim, a school bus operator. They live in the town of Calmar and have a family of two girls Carol and Beverly.

Ella married (Robby) Albert Robinson, a railroad man and lives in the city of Red Deer. They have four in their family: Gail, Lois, Neal and Iana.

Dolly married Roy Westlin, a farmer in the Calmar district and they have two children; Murray and Helene.

Tillie married Wes Connelly, a farmer in the Edgerton district. They have four children: Jay and Joan and a set of twins, a boy Dwight and a girl Denise. Tillie now lives in Red Deer.

THE KVARNBERG FAMILY HISTORY

by Ernest Kvarnberg

Andrew Kvarnberg emigrated from Gagnef, Dalarne, Sweden to America in 1903, arriving first in New York City where he worked at various construction jobs before coming to Canada.

He was a carpenter by trade but found employment on railroad construction including tunnel work west of Banff on the C.P.R., after which he applied for homestead patent on the S.E. 30-49-R28-W4 and proceeded to establish a home for his family. He sent for them in 1905 and Mrs. Kerstin Kvarnberg and her five children, Emil, Anna, Eric, Christene and Elsa left their home and friends in Gagnef and sailed to America.

Their first home on the homestead was a 12 x 12 shanty built of boards and slabs, which incidentally is still standing on the home farm to this day. A larger log house was built before the first winter, but then disaster struck when their father became afflicted with rheumatism and was unable to do any work. Emil, being the eldest went to work for a neighbor, Alex Phillips from where he attended school for three months at Willow Creek school in return for chore duties on the Phillip's farm. This was the only schooling he had here in Canada. I can still remember when as a child my parents used to read to each other in bed by the light of a coal oil lamp, my mother reading in English with my father watching and following the words with her. In turn, he would read Swedish to her and this is how they learned to read the respective languages.

The following summer, Emil found employment with John Walter's sawmill just east of the high level bridge in Edmonton. He was only fourteen years of age and had to handle wet slabs 10 hours a day for 50¢ per day. Both Emil and Eric had to work out several winters in lumber camps to eke out a living.

Determined to do what he could, their father



First home on the Kvarnberg homestead. Still standing today.

wrapped gunny sacks stuffed with hay around his knees as he was unable to walk and in this way went out to grub willows to clear a patch of land. Neighbors helped them with food and livestock, and along with the meager wages Emil was able to bring home, they managed to carry on. To make matters more difficult, on one visit home, Emil had spent \$2.50 out of his wages to purchase a violin. His father was furious, but being interested in music he accepted the folly and made the best of the situation by hand crafting several violins from the original. He also made several guitars and zithers, a feat not easy as his hands were gnarled and twisted by arthritis. He even managed to play the violin using only two fingers that were mobile. Both Emil and Eric learned to play and were much in demand to supply music for local dances. The girls and mother were excellent singers, in fact, I can still remember hearing my grandmother singing when she went to get the cows and this was almost a mile away.

The summers being too wet to keep cattle penned up, meant hanging bells on them and turning them loose. Cattle being a lot like people, liked company and usually congregated in a common pasture usually miles from home. Here would be cows from several farms with the lead cow wearing its own special bell. Imagine having to round up your cows this way every day with grass and willows soaking wet. Hay had to be cut with a hand scythe and hung on willow bushes to dry.

The homestead was secured in 1908 and more land was cleared and broke, all by hand, the plowing done with a walking plow pulled by horses or oxen. Some of the willows were so huge that a path had to be cut in to the centre in order to reach the stalks with the axe. The crown had to be split into small enough pieces to be skidded away with horses. Fortunately in later years a neighbor, Mr. John Alpaugh purchased a large tractor and breaking plow in time to turn over the last area to be broken.

The homestead was sold to the younger son Eric in 1917 as the adjoining quarter to the west was

purchased by Emil in 1912 for \$1200.00 which was a lot of money at that time. This parcel of land had been owned by an American, Mr. Edward Erickson of North Dakota.

Emil married Matilda (Tilly) Westlund of Calmar on July 23, 1917 making their home on the land just purchased. Trees were plentiful and logs cheap, except for the work involved and this was the only way barns and other buildings could be had. Some logs were hauled to Eric Westlund's farm three miles away and made into lumber. Threshing was done by steam outfits directly from stacks in those days, sometimes well on into the winter. The early machines had no band cutters nor straw blowers, both these operations being done by hand. Later outfits were much larger, especially that operated by Nels Munk who could clean off a quarter section in a little over a day. The first combine was purchased in 1944, a 6-foot John Deere pull type.

Their first child, Roy (Albert Leroy) was born July 18, 1918. After attending school in Willow Creek and Progress, Roy purchased the Thorsby power plant from John Hier in 1937 and proceeded to renovate it by installing a new diesel engine and A.C. generator. He later took over the Massey Harris agency also from John Hier. When Calgary Power built their line into Thorsby in 1939, Roy moved his plant to Vilna. In the same year he met and married Mary Semenchuk of Thorhild. They have two children, Judy and Jim. Judy, now living in California, has one son, Richard. Jim who lives in Edmonton, married Helen Gorsky of Toronto and they have one daughter Nila and a son Paul.

Judy and Jim both being deaf, meant that they had to attend school in Saskatoon and Edmonton Schools for the Deaf. Both completed their high school in Warburg and attended Gauladet College for the Deaf in Washington, D.C.

The power plant was sold in Vilna and after a period of employment at Eatons in Edmonton, Roy spent one winter driving a cat train into the



Eric (L) & Emil Kvarnberg playing violins hand made by their father around 1907 or 1908.



Andrew Westlund family.
L. to R.: Mrs. Sarah Westlund, Matilda (Tilly), Father, Andrew, Alvina,
Albert. (Selma is missing).

Yellowknife area, finishing off the winter in Johnny McDonald's saw mill. In the spring he signed on with the Hudsons Bay Company, freighting on the McKenzie River. In 1944 he purchased the Spitz farm west of Warburg and moved his family out there. He added two more quarters that were purchased from Louis Ettinger in 1966. He still operates the farm although they moved into the village of Warburg where they built a new home in 1976. Roy was instrumental in helping to organize both rural power and telephone in the Thorsby—Warburg area. He served as president of the Fern Creek Mutual Telephone Company and the Strawberry R.E.A. of which he is now secretary.

The second son, Ernest, was born March 1, 1920, attended public school in Willow Creek and Progress and high school in Thorsby, followed by one term at the Southern Institute of Technology in Calgary where he studied building construction and architecture. When World War II broke out, he served for nine months in the army before being medically discharged.

He returned home to the farm and gradually took over the operation from his father. In 1950 he met and married Ruby Richards of Sunnybrook. They have four children, Beverly who married Ronald Gray of Edmonton and now resides in Calgary. They have two daughters, Kristine and Laura; Glen Kvarnberg is still single and working the farm with his father; Janet, who is married to Gerald Kercher of Sangudo and lives in Spruce Grove; and Carol Ann still at home.

In 1953 the Emil Kvarnberg family were honored by being awarded the Master Farm Family Award by the Province of Alberta and later that year Ernest purchased the home farm from his father and took over operation of it. Registered seed has been the major enterprise on the Kvarnberg farm since 1948 and because of his involvement in seed growing, Ernest was elected to the Board of Directors of the Alberta Branch, C.S.G.A. where he served for ten years as a director and later as president. He also served as president of the Calverley Mutual Telephone Company and the Willow Creek

Community Association. Politics has also been an area of interest to the Kvarnberg family who took an active part in the Social Credit party organization from the very beginning in 1934.

In 1963 Ernest purchased the homestead farm from his uncle Eric who continued to live there until 1976 when he retired to Planeview Manor in Leduc. Eric passed away at age 83 on January 8, 1978. He had remained single.

Emil passed on in October 1972 at the age of 80 as did Ruby's father, Ben Richards, in August 1972, age 81. Tilly Kvarnberg continued living in their cottage on the farm until 1977 when she moved to Cloverleaf Manor in Warburg where she still resides. She is now 86 years old.

Their only daughter, Verna was born in 1922 and had her schooling at Willow Creek, Progress and Calmar, later taking a course in commercial photography at the Chicago Vocational School in Edmonton. She stayed on staff after completing her course and taught photography in Edmonton and Toronto. She later did secretarial work in Edmonton until 1966 when she married Lionel Larson of Edmonton, a widower with three children - Valerie (Mrs. Lloyd Nelson), Kirk and Melody. They adopted a baby boy, Kim in 1969. Valerie's husband, Lloyd, is a son of former Thorsby area resident, Millie Horkulak (Mrs. Nels Nelson). Lionel owns and operates a back hoe business out of Sherwood Park where they own an acreage.

Anna Kvarnberg, after several years employment in Edmonton, moved to California in 1928. There she married Edwin Lewis of Sacramento where she still resides, Edwin passed away in 1976. They had one daughter, Erica Robbins of Sacramento who had a daughter, Evelyn and a son Robbie.

Christene married Edward (Ted) Buchanan of Edmonton, an R.C.M.P. officer. They lived in several northern posts where he was stationed including Grande Prairie and Westlock. They later moved to



Kvarnberg Families - 1960.

Standing L. to R.: Ernest, Ruby, Tony Hoffman, Verna, Ted & Christine Buchanan, Emil, Wanda, Albin & Alda Markstedt, Eric, Ben Richards. Seated L. to R.: Selma Hoffman, Annie Lewis, Tilly, Mrs. Winona Richards, Elsie Simmons, Orland Simmons. Front: Evelyn (Annie's granddaughter), Beverly, Joann Markstedt, Janet & Glen.

Lethbridge where Ted was superintendent in charge of the detachment. On his retirement from the R.C.M.P. they moved to Edmonton where they still make their home. Here he served as inspector of gaols for the province.

They were blessed with five children: William in 1923 (deceased 1960) who married Alice Pitt of Lethbridge and had two children, Heather and Billy; Edward (Teddy) born in 1926, married to Evangeline Jensen of Lethbridge in 1954 and they have three daughters, Rosemarie, Katherine and Christene. They live in Lethbridge. Teddy is a Union official. Rosemarie was born in 1928, deceased in 1938; Jean was born in 1930 and married Elmer Culler of Bow Island where they farmed. Elmer passed away in 1977 and Jean continues to operate the farm.

The youngest child, Robert, was born in 1941 and is married to Joyce ReHaune of Grande Prairie. They live in Sherwood Park and have two boys, Kevin and Kent. Bob, as he is commonly known is a technologist with the Energy and Natural Resources department.

The youngest daughter of Andrew and Kerstin Kvarnberg, Elsa (Elsie) married Orland Simmons of Edmonton in 1926. They moved out to their farm west of Buford where they lived until retiring to Thorsby in 1940 and later to Edmonton and Nelson, B.C. Orland passed away in 1974. Elsie continues to live in Nelson.

They had two children, Faye born in 1929, died in infancy and Orland (Orlie) born in 1931. Orlie is a professional engineer with Montreal Engineering and was the engineer in charge of construction of the Brazeau Dam near Drayton Valley as well as several dams in the Arrow Lakes Project in B.C. While constructing a dam in the Yukon Territories he met and married Jackie Folly in 1954. They live on a ranch near Nelson and have three daughters, Wendy, Marianne and Catherine, and they all love horses.

Andrew Kvarnberg passed away in 1934 at the age of 78, followed by Kerstin in 1961 at the ripe old age of 93. Hard work, hard times and destitution in their case certainly rule out their effect on longevity. Nothing could exemplify the feelings of loneliness and separation from home and friends as well as the following excerpts from a letter written by Mrs. Kvarnberg to her brother back in Sweden in December 1905, shortly after coming to Canada. This letter had been kept and given to Elsie when she visited her homeland a few years ago. She translated it into English as it appears here.

Calmar—Dec. 10, 1905

Ever Remembered brother Olaf and family:

Many thanks for the letter you wrote, Olaf. It is good to hear from you there at home. As I see from your letter you feel well and live with good health. In truth, when one can feel well, then it goes alright wherever one is.

So, I think you have it good to what I have. That I should come to Canada and be a burden to all around us here. There is only discouragement when I think that we should come here to become rich and have it

better than at home. But if father had not insisted, I would never have left. But there was always grumbling if I could not leave that poor Gagnef and the poor pieces of land. So he wrote in all his letters and I had to try to arrange to get away from poverty to have plenty. But it looks as if there is no blessing in it for my part. When I was home I knew somehow what there was for me, but here there is nothing but a huge land full of willows and trees, and in summer when it rains it is impossible to go out without wading over your boot tops in water. Such a land is not worth a pipe full of smoke. I am so sad many times over such conditions that I lose all hope and will-power. Oh, if it could be undone. For such places it would be more suitable to ship over here 70 or 80 year old people to sit here in the bush.

If father can get well again sometime, we will then see what happens, but it looks like it will go slowly. He cannot be up yet so I don't know how it will go with him.

As I saw in your letter the neighbor women were with you making stockings. But to me, you can never come any more, nor any of you there at home. I remember the fun when all the neighborhood women could cut themselves loose and come to me, but now it is so far between us that we can never have a little visit.

I have nothing more to write about at this time. My wish is that these lines find you in good health and that you have a happy Christmas and a good new year. Here will be no Yule. Here we see no one and we hear no one, so we sit and look at each other. Emil and Eric can get out and find companions.

Remember all from me,

Kerstin Kvarnberg.

This family history was submitted by Ernest Kvarnberg with the valued help of all members of the family and neighbors. It has been a rewarding experience to sort out and re-live so many experiences and remembrances that would have been forgotten. May this record be a reminder to those who follow that memories are not good enough as they are often so short.

MR. & MRS. OSCAR LARSON & FAMILY

by Grace (Larson) Babiak

Oscar Larson, one of a family of six, was born Sept. 22, 1887 in Port Daniel, New Brunswick. He worked at many jobs in his youth, one of which was logging (rolling the logs down to the river).

In 1917 he moved west and on the train he met Mom (Marguerite Arnell), who was returning from a visit to Nova Scotia. They were married Christmas Day, 1917 in Viking, Alberta. This was Mom's second marriage. Her first marriage had been to Fred Baird in 1913 and there were two boys born, Elmer 1914 in High Prairie at the weight of $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds and Henry November 28, 1916 in Stettler, Alberta. Fred Baird



13, 1927.

Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Larson at Buford.

was reported misssing in action during World War I. Dad had a homestead at Hoadley, and from there moved to Viking. Their first son, Sidney, was born in 1918 and died at 11 months from the flu. Ernie was born on May 17, 1920. Dad, working on a ranch in the Viking area lost 2 fingers while breaking a horse. They then moved to Lacombe, where I was born, March 7, 1922. While still a baby, we moved to Riverhurst, Saskatchewan, where Bernard was born December 18, 1923; Reba on March 20, 1925 and Leslie on July

The folks then moved to Gilroy, Sask., where they purchased their first car - a Model T. Ford. The Christmas I was 6, the family, with the exception of Dad, all came to Leduc on the train to spend Christmas with Grandma. Dad picked us up at the station on the return trip. The roads were icy and the car over-turned and we had to tear the canvas top in order to get out. I remember Dad using horses to pull the combine, I don't know how many, but quite a few. We farmed in the Gilroy area until the drought. It was all dust and grasshoppers, the dust drifting and blowing like snow, almost covered the fence posts.

Reba got rheumatic fever so bad that the Doctor advised we move to Alberta (1929). Times were bad and we couldn't sell anything as no one had the money to buy, so we loaded all we could onto a box car with other families and gave the furniture and cattle away. The horses were turned loose to fend for themselves. The family, all nine of us, started on our way to Greencourt, Alberta, in the Model T. The car broke down in Vegreville, and we had to stay a few days to have it repaired.

Mary was born February 14, 1934 in Greencourt and in 1935 we moved to a farm northwest of Calmar. The folks farmed there until the early spring of 1939, at which time we moved to Buford and purchased the General Store and later took on Buford's first Post Office. Mom ran the egg grading station and the Post Office while Dad worked on various farms in the area, as well as for the C.P.R. My youngest brother, Wayne,

was born January 16, 1943. In 1948 Mom and Dad moved to Edmonton where Dad worked for the City until the time of his passing in 1952, at the age of 64. Mom passed away in Edmonton in 1976 at the age of 80.

As a point of interest, my mother's grandfather lived to the ripe old age of 102 and her grandmother to the age of 87 years.

Dad liked the quiet of the country, so when they moved to Edmonton, he bought a lot and cabin at Mulhurst on Pigeon Lake for the family, which has since been sold.

Elmer was killed in the Leduc hotel explosion in 1950, while waiting in the lobbby to catch a bus for Edmonton to visit Mom and Dad.

Henry joined the Army after the start of the Second World War and was sent overseas where he met and married Florence Bye, who was also in the army. After the war, while living in Leduc, Henry worked as a Town Policeman and in the Waldorf Hotel which later burnt down. They had one son, Ronald. They moved to Devon, where Henry worked for Imperial Oil until his retirement. They still reside in Devon and Ronald lives in London, Ontario.

Ernie also joined the Forces and when he returned he married Marion Marson of Edmonton. He delivered milk for a dairy in Edmonton. They later moved to Devon, where he worked for Imperial Oil up until the time he started his wire-line business. He now raises and races horses. Ernie and Marion still reside in Devon. They had 3 children: Val, Connie and Kyel.

Reba moved to Kamloops, B.C., met and married Oscar Johnson and had 4 children: Gale, Walter, Linda and Holly. She lost her husband in 1966. She now resides in New Westminister, B.C.

After the folks moved, Leslie lived with us on the farm, working for various farmers in the area and on the railway. When the farmer's strike was on, he helped us on the farm, hauling feed, looking after the cattle and other chores. He moved to Edmonton and worked for a time at MacCosham's then at Fibre Glass. He now works for the Edmonton Exhibition Association and lives on an acreage in the Ardrossan area. Leslie is married to Alice Moser of St. Paul and they have 4 children: Leonard, Joe, Sheila and Rex.

Bernard also enlisted at the outbreak of World War II, and while overseas, married Gwen in England.



Oscar Larson Family - 1976. Rear: Ernest Leslie, Wayne. Front: Grace, Mary, Reba & Henry.

They had a daughter Margaret, but neither wife or daughter came to Canada after the war. When the Korean War broke out Bernard joined the Provost Corps hoping to get back to England and see his family but was killed in action in 1952. Bernard's army years and his possessions are recorded at the Provost Museum at Camp Borden, Ontario.

Mary married Melvin Ergang of Leduc, where they lived for some time before moving to Edmnton. For many years Melvin worked for the City of Edmonton, as well as raising a family, Mary worked as a cook, They had 7 children, 2 boys and 5 girls: Joyce, Leroy, Gloria, Heather, Phillip (passed away at 6 years), Lila and Karen. They now live on a farm near Rochester, Alberta.



4 Generations: Mrs. Wm. Babiak, Mrs. O. Larson, Mrs. Francis Rychlo & daughter Carole.

When Mom and Dad moved to Edmonton, Wayne lived with us on the farm until the folks were settled. After finishing school in 1961, Wayne joined the Provost Corps and was later given a medical discharge. He worked for Smith's Ambulance for sometime. He is now with the Highway Patrol and stationed in Edson. Wayne is married to Sharon Kulchysky from Edmonton and they have one daughter Kim.

I married Bill Babiak of Buford in 1939.

PASTOR OLAF LINDGREN

submitted by his daughter, Ellen Long

Olaf Lindgren was born in November, 1861, in Sweden. He came to America at the age of 19 years, settling in Wilmar, Minnesota. It was there that Olaf met and married Anna Olson in November, 1885. At Svea, in Minnesota, they began their married life and it was here that 4 sons (Edwin, Victor, Oscar and Rudolph) and 4 daughters (Annie, Edna, Ellen and



Pastor and Mrs. Olaf Lindgren and Family.

Mildred) were born.

Olaf labored as a carpenter, farmer and lay-minister until June of 1906 when he was ordained into the Augustana Lutheran Church. Soon after he answered the missionary call and with his wife and family moved to Calmar, Alberta, Canada. He served faithfully there for 2 years. A minister's life is never easy, especially in time of sickness when no distance was too great or weather too cold for Pastor Lindgren to journey to his parishoners' homes by horse and buggy or by sleigh.

From here the family moved to Camrose where Olaf ministered to the Fridhem congregation there. Another son, Arthur, was born at this time.

Then on June 11, 1910, Olaf moved to Czar, Alberta, where he pioneered the work of the present Emmanuel Lutheran Church which serves as a tribute to his memory.

He passed away in October of 1927, and was laid to rest in the Czar cemetery. Anna passed away in November, 1948. Three of his family still surviving are: Ellen Long of Czar, Alberta, Rudolph of Edmonton and Arthur of Haney, B.C.

THE MIKE LYKA STORY

by Emily and Marlene Lyka

In 1904, Mr. Steve Lyka came to Canada, at the age of 18 years. He settled on the land located SW 16-48-27 W4, later moving to NW 7-49-27 W4.

Steve married Kathleen Marushak in June, 1914. They had 4 children: Mike, Joe, Alex, and Olive. Then in December, 1922, Kathleen passed away after a short illness.

In Feb. of 1925, Mr. Lyka married Pearl Fedio, who besides stepping in to raise these 4 children, had 7 by this marriage: Nick, Leona, Edward, Stella, Bill, Emily, and Robert. On Dec. 2, 1938, Mr. Lyka passed

Mike, the oldest of the Lyka children, was 22 years of age at the time of his father's passing. For the family,



Steve Lyka and wife Pearl.

the times meant much hard work, but they all managed to fare well.

Mrs. Steve (Pearl) Lyka left the farm and moved to Edmonton in 1946. She passed away on March 12, 1970.

After his father's death in 1938, Mike, the oldest of the sons, stayed on the farm until the fall of 1943, when his half brother, Nick, was old enough to help his mother in managing the family and farm. At this time, Mike bought a half-share with Sam Adamic in the Buford chop mill. They purchased it from Ole Hallan and ran it for 2 years. Mike then bought Sam's share and managed it alone for 1 year, before selling to Bill Yanish. That winter Mike drove a lumber truck for Steve Adamic. In 1947, Mike bought a truck from Steve Adamic and trucked on his own, hauling gravel.

On Sept. 30, 1948, Mike married Amelia (Emily) Harrish. Their first home was in Buford. At the time of the marriage he continued trucking, hauling gravel in the summer and the odd load of coal in the winter. Some of his hauls took him to distant places. His winter projects were at Blueberry Mountain, Manning, and the Mackenzie Highway, where he hauled gravel during winter freeze-up. Because of the great distances between home and job, Mike often lived at camp.

Mike and Emily were blessed with a son, David, on June 28, 1949. When David was one year of age, the



Mr. & Mrs. Mike Lyka, Oct. 19, 1971.

family moved to Warburg, where Mike hauled coal from the Warburg Coal Mine. The following year they returned to Buford.

David's first 6 years of schooling were spent in Calmar. At this time the children of Buford were transported on Andrew Popik's bus.

In 1958, the Lykas were pleased with an addition to the family. A sister for David, Catherine (Cathie), was born Jan. 4th.

In May, 1961, Mike began construction on a house in Thorsby. August of the same year, the family moved into their new home. David continued his schooling in Thorsby, graduating in 1967.

In 1964, after Cathie started school, Emily found employment at the Thorsby Rexall Drug Store, then owned by the Joe Ruzickas. Several years later, she worked part-time at this job and also held a position at the Leduc Strathcona Health Unit sub-office in Thorsby.

Mike sold his truck in 1971, and he and Emily became custodians of the Thorsby High School. He was also caretaker of the Thorsby Community Center.

On Aug. 6, 1971, David married Marlene Kuzio. They resided in Edmonton for several years, where they were both employed. In Dec., 1976, David and Marlene moved into their new home in Thorsby. At present, David commutes to his place of employment, the Gulf Oil Refinery, which is located east of Edmonton.

Mike passed away on Dec. 26, 1975 at the age of 60. Previous to this, he had commuted to his job at Quality Steel Foundries in Edmonton.

In 1976, Cathie graduated from Thorsby High School. At present, she is living in Edmonton and doing office work at Inland Cement.

Emily is still employed at the Leduc Strathcona Health Unit and resides in her home in Thorsby.

Mike, being a gentle, considerate family man, his passing leaves an emptiness not easily forgotten. His family hopes that they have inherited just a few of his fine qualities and that these traits will be evident in their lives. They also thank God for the years they spent as a family unit.



Cathy Lyka.



David & Marlene Lyka - Aug. 1975.

THE NICK AND ALICE LYKA STORY

as related to Emily and Marlene Lyka and Shirley Radowits

On Dec. 6, 1925, Nick, a half brother to Mike Lyka, was born. He received his schooling at Willow Creek. After Mike ventured out on his own, Nick left school (1943) to help his mother farm the quarter (NW 7-49-27 W4) and raise the younger children.

In 1946, he rented the land from his mother, when she decided to make her home in Edmonton.

Nick farmed and lived alone until his marriage to Alice Harrish on Sept. 14, 1949. A daughter, Barbara (Barb), was welcomed into their home on May 12, 1951. As a young child, she grew fond of the outdoors and adopted many of the farm animals as pets. A son, Rodney (Rod), was born July 26, 1954, and completed the family circle.

In 1956, Nick, Alice, and their 2 children (because of 100% hail damage to the crops), decided to try a new way of life. Nick found employment at MacCosham Van Lines in Edmonton. A month later, they moved from the farm (which they rented to John Terlesky) and settled into their new home.

Barb attended H.A. Gray school until grade 9, then completing her education at Victoria Composite High School. On June 10, 1972, Barb married Bill Williams and they purchased a home in Edmonton. Bill is employed as office manager at MacCosham Van Lines and Barb works as a computer operator at Imperial Oil Co.



L. to R.: Barb (Lyka) Williams, Bill Williams, Alice Lyka, Nick Lyka, Gerry Lyka and Rod Lyka.

Rod attended H.A. Gray until grade 9 and then completed his schooling at W.P. Wagner (vocational school). It was during this time that Rod met his future bride, Geraldine (Gerry) Bradshaw. Their marriage took place on Aug. 9, 1975. After 3 years of apartment dwelling, they now happily reside in their new home on the farmsite his father was raised on. Previous to their moving, Gerry worked at the Alberta Hospital. Rod now commutes to his job at Blow Out Prevention (oil field services) which is located at the Nisku Industrial Park.

His parents, Nick and Alice Lyka, are working in Edmonton. Nick has been employed at MacCosham Van Lines for 22 consecutive years. In 1964, Alice found employment at Reitman's Ladies Wear and is still employed with the firm.

The Nick Lykas' dream is to retire on his father's homeplace to enjoy peaceful, country living.

JOHN AND KATHERINE MANKOW

by Katherine (Koziol) Mankow

John Mankow was born in Chornihov, Russia. He immigrated to Canada on August 28, 1922 at the age of 12 with his mother Pearl, 2 older brothers Mike and Steve, and an older sister Tena, to join his father Anton, who had purchased a quarter section of land in the Calmar district in 1919, SE 6-50-27 W4.

Katherine Mankow ne Kataryna Koziol was born in the Glidehurst district. She moved to the Calmar district SW 5-50-27 W4 with her parents Luke and Mary Koziol, twin brother Joseph, older brother John, sisters Anna and Victoria, and younger brothers Frank and Albert. As a young girl, she shared in the labours of setting up the family's new home — doing chores, picking roots to clear the land, stooking grain, mowing and stacking hay.

John and I (Katherine) were neighbors. We both attended Wilton Park School which was located 13/4 miles north of our homes. In the winter especially, that was quite a distance to go to school, for we had to walk. The roads weren't snowplowed in the 1920's, and getting to school was often quite a challenge. Walking on top of the snowdrifts was fun — it was when we would suddenly break through the crust and end up in waist-deep snow that the going became difficult and slowed us down. There were many mornings that we were late for classes!

John and I were married on November 28, 1934 in the Holy Ascension Russo-Greek Orthodox Church located 5 miles west and 2 miles north of Calmar. We lived with John's parents for 1½ years, then moved to an 80 acre parcel of land at NW 5-50-27 W4. John had built a two-room house there on a hill overlooking a small creek. Later on, we built a chicken coop from slabs and rails, using straw for packing and insulation, as well as for the roof. We used coal and wood for heat, and kerosene lamps for light in the house. Washday was a day of its own. We used a washboard and tub for washing the clothes and sadirons for ironing. Fetching water meant several trips to a dug well 500 yards away from the house down near the creek.

For entertainment we would gather at neighbors' houses or granaries and dance away the evening to the music of a mouth organ and a comb and paper. Those were great times! To keep in touch with the rest of the world we had a battery-powered radio that crackled and kept fading in and out. Peddlers offering special bargains and premiums came around selling the Free Press and Country Guide. These magazines were the extent of our reading material then.

During this period on the farm, our 2 sons, Leon



Flood in May 1943.





Elizabeth Mankow - First day of school.

Katherine Mankow with Elizabeth. Leon & Sergius - 1942.

and Sergius, were born. During the flood in May of 1943, the creek overflowed, making it impossible to get water from the dug well. For a week, until the flood water subsided, I had to walk a quarter of a mile to John's parents to get drinking water. Fortunately, our house was situated on higher ground and was not affected by the flood. The storms in winter also made life somewhat difficult, with the snowdrifts piling high around the house. However, the children and I persevered and were successful in raising some chickens, pigs, and cattle. In 1944 there was a lot of excitement at our place when twin calves were born. Prices paid for the hogs and cattle were low when we sold them, but the money certainly came in handy for making a trip into Edmonton to buy necessary items. Elizabeth, Leon and Sergius stated school at Wilton Park. Carrying their lard-pail lunchkits, they would leave home early, since they had to walk. On some occasions, they got to ride the horse to school - this was certainly more fun than walking.

John enlisted with the Canadian army in the 6th Field Park Squadron RCE on June 19, 1941. The regiment trained at Lethbridge, Shilo, Man., and Truro, N.S., before moving overseas to England in 1942. Being with the armed forces, John travelled to several European countries, namely England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Like his travels, his experiences during his army life were numerous, as indicated by his communications with his family during his service and later, upon his return home. He was relegated to front-line action in Belgium and received his honorable discharge in 1946.

After John's discharge from the army, we continued to live on the farm for a while. Our youngest child, Joan, was born, and the following year, 1947, we sold the farm and bought a house, which we converted into a store, in Buford. Business was slack however, and John sought different employment away from home. We continued to live in Buford, with the children attending school first at Willow Creek (until the school was closed), then at Calmar.

John was well-known in the community. Because of his perseverance, he was instrumental in obtaining lower rates for power and natural gas installation for the residents of Buford. Upon his retirement, John was engaged in commercial as well as leisure fishing. He was recognized as "Santa Claus" by many of the youngsters in the district both in and out of season. His personality, his robust stature, and his ability to grow a long, white beard quickly, made him the perfect candidate for this role, as indicated by the requests of several local community organizations for him to be 'Santa' at their Christmas functions for the past few years.

John passed away on August 1, 1978. I am retired and still living in Buford. The children are living in



John & Katherine Mankow Family. Children and spouses and grandchildren - Xmas 1976.

various parts of Alberta. Elizabeth pursued a career in banking and lives in Edmonton with her husband Douglas Moffat. Leon is involved with the oil field and resides in Drumheller with his wife Ethel (nee Neuman), and 2 children, Brian and Joanne. Sergius is also involved with the oilfield and resides in Milk River with his wife Rosemarie (nee Oslanski) and 2 children Lisa and David. Joan has pursued a career in education and lives in Whitecourt with her 2 children, Bryan and Kathy.

ALBIN MARKSTEDT FAMILY

Submitted by Wanda Markstedt

Come to Canada! Quarter sections of land for \$10.00! Many jobs available! In the early 1900's, propaganda like this lured many a European to this country. Albin Markstedt was no exception. Nineteen years of age, he arrived in Halifax on March 1, 1929.



Albin Markstedt with his Model T Ford. Taken in 1933.

The train took him to Vancouver where he worked in a lumber camp. In winter this job closed down and Albin got employment in a restaurant operated by "Meat Ball Jackson".

In 1930 he moved to Calmar where he worked for Eric Kvarnberg the first year. He recalls doing some grubbing for a neighbor with two of his friends at 90 cents a day each, and they had to buy their own food. He then worked for Emil Kvarnberg, staying there until he bought his own land in Buford in 1939 and moved in 1941.

Early in 1947 Albin and Wanda Halwa were married. This was the year of the "Discovery Well" in the Leduc oilfield. Besides farming he worked in the oil fields for seven years, first firing a boiler and later looking after battery sites.

He then bought a school bus which he drove to Thorsby for 20 years until retiring in 1975. He sold his land to Tuffy Mussivand, reserving two lots on which he built a new home.

The Markstedts have two daughters; Alda married Roger Gunsch and they have two children, Tracy and Jimmy, JoAnn is married to Dan Denman and they also have two children, Aaron and Heather.



The Markstedt Family, Albin, Wanda, JoAnn and Alda.

MEMOIRS OF NICK MARUSHAK

written by Rose Krasniuk and granddaughters Irene, Terry, and Cindy

Nick Marushak was born in Ukraine in 1882. In 1909 he immigrated to Canada to join his uncle Michiloe and his brother Micketa. After working on the railroad and teaching school, he earned enough to buy a store which he operated for three years.

His future wife came to Canada in 1911 and made her home in Calgary with her brother John. They met at a family gathering and were married the following

After his marriage he bought a farm in Buford through an agency in Calgary. When he inspected his land, and found it was swamp, he returned to Calgary and transferred his name to the quarter east, NE 7-49-27-W4, two miles north of Buford Post Office and general store. This was suitable because of the creek running across the land.

In 1914 he had settled at a neighbour's in Buford, bringing with him, his wife Mary, daughter Frances, brother Micketa and uncle Michiloe. With their help and friend Steve Lyka they started to build their home.

Trees were felled and hauled from an adjoining farm owned by Michael Terlesky. From there they were hauled to the north side of the farm, where a small, cleared, plot of land was prepared for their two



Nick Marushak and his team of horses and wagon with Mrs. Marushak standing by wagon, 1920.



House built by Nick Marushak on his farm in 1916. It was built of logs and later covered with siding.

roomed house.

The house was constucted from hand made materials, shingles slivered by an axe, the door made of slabs, a table and two benches carved out of logs and slabs cut for bed springs. Their only purchase was a window-pane acquired on a trip to Leduc for groceries.

Oncethe house was built they began to furnish the inside. Striped cotton mattress cases were filled with straw, an iron stove was bought for cooking, as well as coal oil and sad iron for pressing clothes. A well was dug by hand for water.

Not long after the house was built, his sister Kathleen came to join them. That year Steve Lyka and Kathleen were married. It was a small wedding, but all the close neighbours were invited. The afternoon was filled with drinking, dancing and eating. Soon after the wedding Steve and Kathleen settled on a farm just to the west of them.

That winter they lived on the farm and early in the spring bought a cow and chickens. Mary looked after the stock while Nick went back to Calgary to work for



Nick & Mary Marushak with daughters Francis, Helen and Rose - 1921.

the Canadian Pacific Railroad. As there were no fences, Mary had Millie Stashko baby sit Frances while she went to get the cow. The cow was bought from Patrick's near Progress District and each day she would return there. By tying a bell on the cow, Mary would be able to find her and bring her home each evening. Later when they acquired more cows they all wandered to the Progress area, sometimes taking well into the night to bring them home to milk them. Later they bought two horses and Mary was able to ride instead of walk, that way she didn't get so wet crossing the swamps. These horses were bought on the second spring Nick came home from Calgary. He drove them with pride, in front of a red wagon with a high spring seat. With this wagon he used to haul eggs and butter to Buford store. They packed the eggs in boxes separated with layers of hay and they made butter in large wooden pails. In winter they made long, four day journeys to South Edmonton to exchange their wheat for (4 Star) flour and porridge.

Nick cut willow and tamarack posts taking with him only sow belly for food because it wouldn't freeze, bread and tea in lard cans which could be heated over open camp-fire. They would haul posts to Leduc with sleighs and exchange them for groceries.

By the fourth spring Nick decided to stay home. He now had two daughters, Frances and Helen. His livestock had now increased to four cows with calves, two horses, several pigs and a flock of chickens. For his fifteen acres of cleared land he bought a plow and disc in order to grow wheat. They still had no fences and after a squabble with his neighbour about his pigs and chickens, it was decided he would move his home to the east side of his farm.

With the help of Micheta and Michiloe they used a long cable wound around a wheel of a stump puller and the horses went around and around, pulling the house slowly as they cleared a path before them. It was several weeks before they had dug a small root cellar and placed the house on it.

The next year Nick cleared more land, hauling the logs to Westlunds to be cut into boards; he used them to build a barn. As they were finishing, there was a bush fire which burnt it to the ground. He then built a log barn for his cows and horses. Some of these buildings are still standing on their original site.

As the community began to grow, they organized dramatic concerts. Mary was very involved and quite often played leading roles. The two first of them were "Mother was a Maid" and "Fugitive from Justice". Both were written by Taras Shevchenko.

Mary's ladies' group began to raise funds for a new church. The church cemetery still remains, but the church was moved to Thorsby. At this time their third daughter Rose was born.

During the 1919 flu epidemic, Uncle Micheta passed away and was buried in South Edmonton.

Nick continued clearing land by hand with grub hoe and axe pulling stumps and trees with horses. He'd stack them on piles and burn them, then plough with a breaking plow and pick roots so he could seed it next year.

He would stand on a stone boat with wheat in bags and throw it around while Mary drove the horses. They they'd take willow branches and drag it over the seed before the birds could eat it. He cut the grain with a binder, tied the bundles by hand with their stems, then stooked to dry the bundles. He hauled it into large stacks and Mr. Westlund came around in the winter with a steam engine and threshed it. They filled 100 lb. bags and carried them on their backs into granaries. They used the straw to fill mattresses for the beds.

In 1923 Mary's sister Julia came to Canada to live with them. She later married John Maryka.

Another daughter Elsie was born and passed away at the age of one year and a half. Nick Babiak made a casket and she was buried in the Catholic cemetery. Then two more daughters were born, Elsie and Jean.

In 1929 the depression hit the country. The wheat dropped in price from \$1.50 to .19 cents. He had four thousand bushels in storage at the elevator. After a few months, storage charges owing to the elevator, the sheriff came out and seized livestock. He had to give next years grain to pay for his debt.

In February of 1930 Nick's wife Mary passed away leaving behind five daughters, Frances, Helen, Rose, Elsie and one and a half year old Jean. Nick worked hard to make ends meet bringing up the children. There were no roads so they went across country to Willow Creek school.

As roads and bridges began to be built he worked with a team of horses and scraper to pay for his taxes. Then the Buford Cheese Factory was built and he was able to sell milk. In 1933 he purchased his first car, a 1927 Chevrolet, but never learned to drive it.

He retired from his farm in 1962 and went to live with his daughter Rose in Edmonton. In 1969 he was taken to the General Hospital and from there to St. Joseph's Hospital. He passed away on October 14, 1971, two months before his 90th birthday, leaving to mourn his loss were five daughters, Mrs. Frances (Frank) Schure, Mrs. Helen (Fred Jr.) Glubish, Mrs. Rose (Victor) Krasniuk, Mrs. Elsie Lewer and Mrs. Jean (Ralph) Keturakis; fifteen grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren. Nick and his wife are buried beside each other with an adjoining headstone in the Greek Orthodox cemetery in Thorsby.

THE MARYKA FAMILY

by Walter and Julia Maryka

John Maryka was born January 18th, 1898, to Michael and Mary Maryka in Novi Miekisz in the county of Yaroslav about 50 miles north west of Lvov, Austria. He was one of 4 children. He had 3 sisters, Anne, Katie and Mary. John's father, Michael Maryka







John & Julia Maryka.

died in 1904 or 1905 and his mother, Mary Maryka was married to Nick Harrish, who was a widower with 5 boys; John, Ilco, Steve, Fred and Egnet. Of this marriage there were 3 children born, 2 girls Jenny and Bessie, and 1 son Alex.

In 1907 he came to Canada via Cunard shiplines then to Leduc where they spent their first winter. In 1908 the family came to the Thorsby area, settling on a farm bought by his step-father from Fred Adamic (NW 2-49-28-W5). The school that he went to in the area was built, approximately 1910.

At the age of 21, he bought his own farm, N.W. 8-49-27-W4.

In 1922 he married Julia Blazenko.

Julia Blazenko was born August 12th, 1901 to Peter and Magdalene Blazenko in the village of Dzuryn, municipality of Chorkiw on the river Seret about 100 miles northeast of Lvov, Austria. She was one of 7 children; 4 sisters Tackla, Mary, Katherine, Anne and 2 brothers, John and Walter.

Due to her father's occupation, as station agent, her family moved to different districts and she received her grade 8 education and it was not uncommon for children in those times to be taught 3 languages — Polish, Ukrainian and German.

During the time of growing up and going to school, Austria and Poland were in wars with Russia, many Ukrainian perople were caught up in these conflicts, and it was in this time, her brother John and 2 sisters Tackla and Mary migrated to Canada. John and Tackla came to Canada and settled down in the Calgary area, while Mary came to the Buford district to live with her new husband (whom she met in Calgary,) Nick Marushak, on the NE 7-49-27-W4.

At the request of her sister Mary and new



Julia Maryka (seated) and her sister Mary Marushak.

brother-in-law Nick, Julia left her home and came to Canada arriving via the Cunard shiplines in Halifax on November 1st, 1920. After a 5 day journey on the train, she arrived at Leduc.

In 1922 she married John Maryka on August the 9th. They raised 5 children; Walter, Alice, Leon, Natalie and Peter. These children were brought up and raised on the NW 8-49-27-W4, located 2 miles south of Buford, 5 miles east of Thorsby, in the Willow Creek School district.

When bought by John Maryka in 1919 the farm was all bush no fences, no house, no nothing. The roads were barely blazed or surveyed. Some had just a grader blade ditch with a lot of bush on either side.

The house was frame construction, high pitched roof and roughly 16' x 24' in size. This housed the family until the end of the '20's, then a kitchen and a couple of pantries were added. The rest was bedrooms.

A decent barn was built later from poplar logs cut out on the farm and hewed with broad axes, dove-tailed and wooden dowled like a log building. It did get a shingle roof.

Mixed farming was carried on, raising most anything that was needed for food or sale. There were horses, cows, pigs, ducks, geese at times, turkeys, dogs and cats and even guinea fowl at one time.

Cows were probably the mainstay of the farm, bless them. Milked by hand, she gave you milk, cream, butter and a cream cheque once in awhile. Also, there were piles of manure, sloppy switchy tails that wrapped around one's head from ear to ear, broken fences to mend, hours spent looking for the beasts, and miles covered walking when one couldn't hear that darn old cow bell.

Willow Creek School was a 2 room country school on 5 acres of school ground. There was a barn, coalshed, and 2 out-houses, one for the girls and one for the boys. There was a ball diamond for soft ball and baseball. Later on an outdoor skating rink and tennis court were made by the students.

One of the old time games that was played in the creek bush, was "Bear". Some of the children were bears and some were hunters. The "hunters" would chase the "bears" with long sticks, and a poke in the behind meant the capture of the "bear".

Some of the boys in their first year of school wore short pants. They were good for a teasing. And the girls wore purple bloomers, for warmth, I guess. Bib overalls were in fashion for the boys too.

There was a school club called the "Willow Creek Cheery Chums Club." From having sports days, picnics, dances and silent movies, the club got money which was spent on school sports equipment, it's first radio, chemistry set and encyclopedia.

We walked 2½ miles to school — fun during dry weather, miserable when raining and muddy. It was cold in the winter. Drifted roads made us go cross country some winters. Mean bulls kept us on the road in the summer. Later on we had a caboose, (covered

sleigh) pulled by a horse. Sometimes the horse ran away with this rig.

Some of the children that attended school at that time were: — Marushaks, Adamics, Terleskys, Lykas, Ankersteins, Shultzs, Ericksons, Dicksons, Westlunds, Ekstroms, Knulls, Hartmans, Phillips, Hayduks, Senfts, Rackways, Jacobsens and Shrams.

We were raised in the Greek Orthodox Faith, and the first church was a hall to begin with, located on Pt. SW 13-49-28-W4. This hall was built by the members in the area and was also used for picnics, dramas and concerts. Later on a proper church was built, also located on the property was the cemetery. Our father and mother were very active church members, and together with other parish members were instrumental in building the hall and later, the church. I believe our father, together with Nick Senetchko carved and painted the front gates of the church altar as well as most of the other carpentry needed in the church. Everything in the Church was hand-made by the members. Mother was, for a number of years, President and Secretary of the ladies church club. Our church was a great sense of pride to all the members and was originally located where the cemetery is now. Later on, it was moved into Thorsby, where it now stands.

Our father died in October of 1962 and mother stayed on the farm until, at the age of 65, she finally realized her life long ambition. She moved into Edmonton so she could attend night classes at the University of Alberta to complete her Ukrainian grammer. This helped her to continue with her hobby of writing poems and short stories in her own Ukrainian language.

Mother has now retired to Leduc, where she resides at the Golden Age Apartments, She enjoys her own independence and fellowship with her new neighbours, and holidays with her children and grandchildren. She has never regretted her move to Canada, where she has and does always remind us of how lucky we are to live in Alberta.

Walter Maryka was born July 28th, 1924, and attended Willow Creek School and completed grade 11. When the second World War broke out, he stayed on the farm with his parents to help his father who had become partially blind with cataracts. After the war he worked at odd jobs in the area and in 1947 moved to Trail, B.C., and started work at the Cominco Smelter.

In April of 1956 Walter married Nelda Mary Caplette, a registered nurse. They have 5 children; Michael, David, Stephen, Jill and Lori.

Alice Maryka was born November 17th, 1926. Alice completed her grade 12 and then went into Edmonton to the University Hospital for her nurse's training. She worked at the University Hospital after receiving her R.N., moving to Nelson, B.C., and from there to Vancouver. Alice met and married Douglas Moore, a school teacher, and they have 3 children; Douglas Jr., Robert and Kathy.

Leon Maryka was born December 2nd, 1929. He

farmed at home before leaving to work in the oil field in Manitoba. There he met and married Doreen Sararas. They moved back to Thorsby and are presently farming on the SE 29-48-1-W5. They have 3 children; Bill, Robbie and Betty Joan. All 3 children attend school in Thorsby.

Natalie Maryka was born November 10th, 1931. She finished her high school in Edmonton. She moved to Nelson, B.C., while her sister was nursing at Nelson Hospital. She worked at Kootenay Forest Products. Natalie married Charles Milligan and they have 4

children; James, George, Tim and Yvonne.

Peter Maryka was born June 1st, 1935, the youngest of the Maryka family. He went to Willow Creek School until they shut it down and from then on he was bused into Calmar, where he went to high school. He farmed with his parents until he went to work in the oil fields. Whenever he could he always managed to get home to help his parent's farm, which was his first love. Peter met and married Lillian Mae (LeMae) Moffatt on August 3rd, 1963. LaMae originally came from Burnaby, B.C. She came to live and work in Edmonton in 1951.

It was quite a transition for LeMae to leave city life and friends to come into Thorsby area and especially to live on a farm. New husband, new friends and not having the first idea of what farming was all about, made those first few years rather exciting and having a sense of humour and being able to laugh at yourself helped out many times. In some respects she understood what the first pioneer women must have felt when they moved here, but she was lucky, all the backbreaking hard work had been done, and she was here to reap the harvest.

Both Peter and LeMae worked out, as well as grain-farmed during the first years of their marriage. Peter worked for the C.P.R. as a machine operator, and LeMae at the Bank of Montreal and then for Dan and Don MacPage at Thomby: Aggregies Ltd.

and Don MacRae at Thorsby Agencies Ltd.

They are farming now, and Peter is driving a school bus into Calmar, his 2 most important passengers being their son, Timothy born on August 24th, 1967 and their daughter, Tanya Lou born on May 24th, 1970.

ALEX PHILLIPS

by Allan Phillips

Alex Phillips was born in Scotland, then came to Marshall, Minnesota where he married Janet Miller of Ontario. Their family consisted of Helen, who married Allan Chalmers. She remained in Minnesota and Alex Phillips, with daughter Nettie, son Hal, son Harvey and daughter Grace, came to Alberta in 1899, and homesteaded the quarter NW 30-49-27-W4, in the Willow Creek district, 6 miles west of Calmar.

There were many hardships during the homesteading days - but their home was always open for overnight homesteaders who came from Telfordville



Mr. and Mrs. Alex Phillips.

enroute to Leduc, which took 2 days going one way. Church services were held in their home every Sunday for many years.

Nettie, the eldest daughter, married Leonard Scott. Hal Phillips, eldest son, married Mary Dalquist - he passed away during the flu epidemic on Nov. 29, 1918, leaving 3 children and another not born until February 1919. Harvey Phillips married Minnie Munroe of Nova Scotia. Grace married George Hobbs and moved to Blackfoot, Alberta. Soon after, father Alex Phillips passed away and Grace and George took their mother to live with them until her passing in 1938. Nettie passed away in Southern Alberta. Harvey, then still on the old farm, passed away a few years later. Mrs. Harvey Phillips resides in a Senior Citizens Home in Leduc. Grandchildren are all married; Jean in Vancouver, Harvey in Calgary, Robert in Fort Saskatchewan and Merle in Rocky Mountain House. Other grandchildren - Allan Phillips



Sunday church service held at Alex Phillips' homestead on the NW ¼-30-49-27-W4, 6 miles west of Calmar. Taken in 1912. From left to right circled: Alex Phillips, Harvey Phillips (known as Happy), Halie Phillips, his wife Mary (now Mary Weeks), Halie's sister Grace. Bottom Row: Halie and Mary's son Allan Phillips.

is retired and lives in Evansburg, Elsie Luger at Hay Lakes, Marie Chandler in Edmonton, and Grace Forsberg in Vernon, B.C. Dorothy and Gladys (Nettie's children) reside in Calgary. Frances lives on a farm near Pigeon Lake; Gordon, Ernest and Kenneth have passed away.

THE PHILLIPS FAMILIES OF WILLOW CREEK

The George and Alex Phillips families originally emigrated from Scotland to Minnesota. Here they farmed for some time before moving to the Calmar district in 1899 where they homesteaded on section 28, presently farmed by Gerhardt Senft, Sam Oswald and Ray Coutts.

A log house was built in the centre of the section and it was here that George and Annie Phillips, their



Sod roofed barn on Alex Phillips farm.

sons Jim, Alec, and Charlie, and daughter Mabel, and their respective families all lived together until other accommodations could be built on their respective parcels of land.

Alec, his wife Jessie and children Marian and Ernest, settled on the S.W. quarter which is presently farmed by Gerhardt Senft. It was on this farm that a sod-roofed building was used as a temporary school until the new Willow Creek School was built a half mile south in 1900. Some of the early teachers here were Miss Ferguson, Miss Clara Kent, and Mr. Athol

Bissett.

Charlie and Cornelia (Ded) and daughter Hazel first moved on to the N.W. quarter where their son Harold later farmed before moving to the permanent Phillips homes on the S.E. quarter now owned by Sam Oswald. The original log house had been moved there from the central location. They lived for a time in Edmonton where Harold and Ethel were born. Ruth (Mrs. Eddie Erickson) was born back on the farm. Hazel married Fred King of Drumheller, and Ethel became the wife of Alex Riddock of Calmar. Some years elapsed before the remainder of the family arrived, namely Ralph, Howard, Gerald, and Evelyn (Mrs. Hermen Flotten). All had their schooling in Willow Creek.

Charlie was a long time member of the Willow Creek School Board and was also a councillor for the Municipality of Liberty.

Early farming was all done with horses, and with the amount of land farmed together, it was not unusual to hitch up as many as three, four, and five horse teams every day.

Many of their early neighbors will remember the community picnic grounds located in the Phillip's pasture. This was home to the Willow Creek baseball team which included Percy Sandstrom as catcher, Floyd Hamilton and Art Swanson as pitchers, Elmer Westlund first base, Harold Phillips second, Eddie Lindberg third, Allan Phillips short stop, and Eric Kvarnberg, Charlie Erickson, and Adolph Lundblad in field.

Harold, the oldest son, remained on the farm, living there in their own home for a period of ten years after his marriage to Elsie Dixon in 1930. Their house was moved to the N.W. quarter where they lived for three years while building a new home. Harold and Elsie raised four children; Harley, Vern, Jerane (Mrs. Larry Page), and Sheila (Mrs. Gerald Streberg). The farm was sold in 1974 and they retired to Calmar where they still reside.

Alex Phillips and his wife Jeanette and their children Nettie, Hal, Harvie (Happy) and Grace homesteaded on the N.W. quarter of section 30. Their home was one of many neighborhood friendship centres where friends gathered for visiting and church services.

Hal (or Sandy as he was known) married Mary



Church service at Alex Phillips
Home - 1915.
L. to R.: George Phillips, Andrew
Westlund, Mrs. Alex (Jeanette)
Phillips, Nellie Swanson, Elsie
Kvarnberg, Esther Swanson,
Christene Kvarnberg, Mrs. Chas.
Phillips, Myrtle Englund, Mrs.
Andrew Westlund, Hazel Phillips,
Pat O'Toole, Grace Phillips, Hal
Phillips, Jim Phillips, Selma
Westlund, Emil Kvarnberg, Tillie
Westlund, (unknown) Louis
Engberg, Alex Phillips (host), Emil
Lundblad.



Harold Phillips Family - about 1930. Standing L. to R.: Ruth, Harold, Ethel, Hazel. Front: Howard, Gerald, Charlie, Evelyn, Cornelia (Dede), Ralph.

Dalquist of Calmar and they had four children; Allan, Elsie (Mrs. John Luger), Marie (Mrs. Al Chandler) and Grace (Mrs. Berger Forsberg).

Harvie (better known as Happy) married Minnie Munroe of the Rainier district in 1922. They made their home across the Blind line from the Alex Phillips farm, which he operated along with his father. They too had four children; Harvie, Jean (Mrs. Johnny Sucloy), Merle (Mrs. Stan Hine) and Bobby. Happy passed away in 1959 after which Minnie made her home in Calmar until August, 1978, when she moved to Planeview Manor in Leduc.

Nettie married Leonard Scott and Grace became Mrs. George Hobbs.

L. ANDREW PEARSON

L. Andrew Pearson immigrated to Canada from Sweden in 1911. In 1917, he married Ellen Lundblad. Their wedding was the second marriage in the Swedish Lutheran Church. They moved to Bruce, Alberta, and lived there until 1937, when they returned to the Willow Creek district.

On their move from Bruce, Clair, Lloyd, and their dad drove over 70 head of cattle nearly 100 miles. The trail drive took 5 days to complete and was quite an experience for the young cowboys. It would have been a lot harder if they hadn't had their faithful dog, "Ring", with them. The following year, the herd was sold for approximately \$15 a head for 3-year old steers that had been grain-fed all winter. They could have been sold in Bruce for a much higher price.



Original house of the Erick Lundblads (1907). Erik and Christine Lundblad.



Wedding Party for L. Andrew Pearson and Ellen Lundlbad. March 22, 1917.

From left to right: Edwin Anderson, Adolph Lundblad, Melvin Anderson, Ella Westlund (flower girl) L. Andrew Pearson, Ellen Lundblad, Florence Anderson (flower girl), Pastor Lindgren, Annie Lundblad, Grace Anderson and Esther Westlund.



Skating Party in 1914. From left to right: Back Row: Henry Evenson, John Evenson, Gus Evenson, Arthur Anderson, Adolph Lundblad, Eric Kvarnberg, Esther Westlund, Emil Kvarnberg, Oscar Dixon. Center Row: Elmer Westlund, Henry Westlund, Erik Dixon, Annie Kvarnberg, Arvid Dixon, Annie Lundblad, Emil Lundblad, Kristine Kvarnberg, Wilfred Dixon, Andrew Ekstrom. Front Row: Oscar Westlund, Robert Westlund, Arnie Erickson, Ella Westlund.



Pete Westlund's usual large, neat woodpile in Willow Creek. Left to Right: Top: Elsie Kvarnberg and her sister Annie. Mid.: Christine Kvarnberg, Esther Westlund, Ellen Lundblad, Hazel Phillips, Albert Engberg. Bott.: Mable Westlund, Minnie Westlund, Alex Peterson, Hulda Engberg & Tillie Westlund.

Andrew and Ellen had 4 sons; Vernon, Clair, Ray and Lloyd.

Vernon worked at the Starky Coal Mine for a few years. At that time he married Gudren Bergo. In 1949, Vernon bought the Hartmen farm and started farming. They had 4 daughters; Marilyn (Mrs. Melvin Gellert), Karen (Mrs. Danny Seguin), Sandra (Mrs. Joe Rye), and Denise. In 1971, they sold their farm and moved into Leduc.

Clair joined the army and went overseas for 3 years. When he returned, he worked in the post office in Edmonton. He married Avis Benson and they have 4 children; Carol (Mrs. Christopher Vaage), Glenn who married Darlene Moberg, Janet (Mrs. Jack Gregory), and Colleen (Mrs. Dale Halvorsen). In 1958, Clair bought the Oswald dairy farm, and lived there until Glenn married in 1969. Clair then bought and moved to Frank Erickson's quarter and Glenn stayed on the dairy farm. Later Clair moved into Calmar.

Lloyd married Angela Bendoritis in 1949. They lived with his parents for awhile until they bought the Inger's quarter and built a house there. They have 3 children; Elaine, David and Danny. Lloyd worked with his brother, Ray, raising pigs. He took the weaner pigs from Ray and finished them for market.

Ray stayed on the homeplace with his parents. His mother continued living with him after his dad passed away in July, 1966.

LLOYD A. PEARSON FAMILY

Lloyd and Angela Pearson and our six-week old daughter, Elaine, moved onto NE 16-49-27 W4 in August, 1952. With the help of Lloyd's father, (L. Pearson) and 2 brothers (Ray and Vernon) they built a barn and a small house that summer. Previously there had only been drilled a well on the yard.

We were happy to get Calgary Power which was

installed later that fall. Our first winter on our new location was a tough one as the crop and garden had been hailed out that summer. Our only income was from the few cows we milked. During the following years we went into a partnership hog business with Lloyd's brother, Ray. Ray tended to the sows and weaner pigs, while we raised the feeders. In 1957, we built a new house. It was heated by an oil furnace until Sept. 1968, when a new natural gas furnace was installed. It was so nice to have lots of room, as we were really getting crowded for space in the small house.



Lloyd Pearson Family.
David, Angela, Lloyd, Elaine and Danny.

There seemed to be more and more work in the years that followed with landscaping and building more farm buildings. In 1960 we planted a shelterbelt south of the house. Another one had to be planted to the north a few years later to keep the snow off the lane. June or July each year we usually took a week's holiday with the children. Our favourite spot was Banff, Alberta.

Lloyd and his brothers, Ray, Vernon, and Clair worked the land together until 1966, when Lloyd decided to go on his own. Since then, we have been renting land besides working our own quarter. 1977 was a bad year for some of us farmers as we were hailed out twice — Aug. 7 and again Sept. 7 We were lucky to have lots of hay to feed our beef cattle for the winter months.

1978 looked like another bad year. Lloyd was looking forward to threshing 100 bushels to the acre on the oat fields but as of Oct. 1, the swaths were lying in the wet fields and sprouting. We had about 8½ inches of rain in Sept.

We have 3 children; Elaine, David and Danny. They all attended Calmar Schools. Elaine works for the Provincial Government in the Public Affairs Bureau. David is an equipment installer with A.G.T. At present, Danny is living at home and working for Northwestern Utilities Limited.

THE RACKWAYS FROM POLAND AND ENGLAND

By Mrs. Rackway

My husband Rudolph Rackway was born in Poland in 1892 and came to Leduc with his parents, Pauline and Adolph Rackway, in 1909.

I, Florence Rackway, was born in England in 1890 and came to Leduc in 1903 with my parents Mary and William Clarke.

Rudolph's parents bought a farm a few miles east of Leduc and my parents farmed a few miles west of Leduc. Our parents never regretted their moves and never looked back because the stories that Leduc, Alberta had good farm land at a cheap price proved to be true.



Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph Rackway (1965).

Rudolph and I were married in Leduc on April 9, 1917 and bought a farm (NW 10-49-27 W4) in the Willow Creek District southwest of Calmar. We resided there for 29 years. In 1946 we sold our farm and moved into Calmar. Three years later we pulled up stakes and Thorsby was our home for the next 12 years. In 1961 we moved back into Leduc and still reside there.

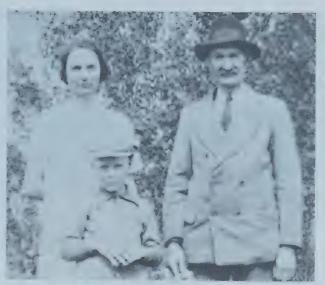
To celebrate a very special occasion, our 60th Wedding Anniversary on April 9, 1977, we flew to Vancouver, B.C. where our 2 daughters Ivy (Mrs. Anthony McSween) and Mable (Mrs. Lloyd Sinclair) reside. Our 4 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren also live in Vancouver, B.C.

We recently moved into Salem Manor in Leduc; with fairly good health are able to look after ourselves.



by Julia Engberg

Hulda Schram, a daughter of Christine and Olaf Engberg, was born in Rutland, North Dakota in 1893. Her parents had emigrated from Sweden in the late 1880's, met in Rutland and were married there. They were disappointed with the farming results in the Rutland area so in 1899, came on an immigration train to Leduc.



Hulda & Joseph Schram and son Edward.

Joseph Schram was born in the state of Michigan, U.S.A. in 1877. We don't know too much about Joseph Schram and his family. One thing known is that he had a sister (Mrs. Ned Willis) who had come to Leduc around the turn of this century. More than likely Mrs. Willis wrote to her brother Joseph and encouraged him to come to this new "Go West Young Man" Country. So maybe that is why he came (around 1904) and was willing to accept the challenges offered here.

Hulda and Joseph met in Leduc where Hulda did housekeeping duties for a family and Joseph was fortunate in getting employment in Leduc's first place of business, The Pioneer Store.

In 1915 they were married at Hulda's home on a C.P.R. quarter (SW 31-49-26 W4) which her father had bought and on which a good part of the town of Calmar was built.

For a few years after their marriage, Hulda and Joseph worked on farms in Saskatchewan. Then they returned to Calmar and bought a quarter of land (SW 15-49-27 W4) south west of Calmar in the Willow Creek District. In 1937 they sold their Willow Creek farm and moved to Abbotsford, B.C.

Joe passed away in 1940 and Hulda and their son Edward moved to Vancouver. In 1962 Hulda was laid to rest. Their son Edward still resides in Vancouver, B.C.

THE JOSEPH SENDZIAK FAMILY

by Effie Brown

Our parents, Joseph Sendziak and Margaret (Marushka) Dobko, both of Ukrainian descent, were married and lived in the village of Laszki, near Jaroslaw, in the province of Galicia in western Ukraine, Austria-Hungary. They owned a small parcel of land and farmed on a small scale.



Joseph and Margaret Sendziak taken in 1926.

They were dissatisfied with the poverty and crowded conditions in their homeland. It was about 1896 that they became acquainted with news of opportunities to better their living. Posters, magazines, and land agents appealed for more settlers for the Canadian West, with the offer of 160 acres of fertile land for \$10.00, under Sir Clifford Sifton's Immigration Policy. Soon some of the neighbors immigrated to the Glidehurst area (near Devon). They confirmed that there was a wonderful chance for freedom, good land, and improved living conditions.

In the early spring of 1903, our parents sold their land and disposed of most of their possessions. They bought tickets for the trip to Canada and packed their belongings in trucks and suitcase-like willow baskets. They brought bedding, towels, and clothing of hand-woven linen, some with cross-stitch embroidery, colorful woolen shawls, and sheepskin coats, along with other items.

With their young family of Stella, Kost, Clara, Einer, William, and Marie, they started the first leg of their journey by rail to Hamburg, Germany. They boarded a ship to England; from there, their voyage was by freighter. It took over 3 weeks to cross the ocean. During that time, they suffered from seasickness, crowded conditions, lack of proper food, and above all from homesickness. The ship docked at New York but there was a delay as it had to be quarantined for scarlet fever. Finally, they were glad when they travelled by train to Montreal, and then westward to their destination, Strathcona.

Our family was very fortunate to spend several months living in a little house on the Frank Halwa farm in the Glidehurst district. This was the original Halwa home, as the Halwas had moved to their bigger house. It was here that Anna was born, shortly after arrival.

Father bought a cow to provide milk for the family. They had a small garden which gave them vegetables.

There remained the job of finding the right place for the new home. Father hoped to find a farm west of Leduc, near the railway. He scouted for a good homestead and walked many miles before he located one. He filed on the S.E. 4-49-1-W5, in the Thorsby area, 27 miles from Leduc, as land close to Leduc was taken.

During the summer, with Kost's help, he built a small log cabin with a sod roof. This became the new home until the next year when a better one was built. Father became an expert at hewing logs for the buildings.

There was spirit of helpfulness amongst the neighbors. They had "bees" to help out when someone needed a building.

In this settlement, the Radowitzes were the closest neighbors. However, everyone suffered the hardships that went with a new area. Land had to be cleared and broken. Roots had to be picked. The small amount of grain grown was sown by hand and threshed with a flail. Rail fences were put up. There were no roads, just trails through the bush, leading to Leduc. There were many gates to open and shut as these trails passed through the fenced property of other pioneers. Corduroy roads had to be built through swampy places. At first, Father walked to Leduc to get staple foods. Later he bought a team of horses. In order to make the trip by wagon or sleigh, he would start out about midnight and return about the same time the next night.



Sendziak Family - 1918. Standing: Father, Mother, Nick, Effie, Rose, Einer. Sitting: Anna.

They raised more cattle. These would graze on open land and sometimes wander several miles away. It was not uncommon to see one of the boys or girls coming home crying when he or she did not find the cows. This would sometimes happen in spite of the lead cow having a bell.

Mother had to be resourceful and learned to cook with what was at hand. Milk was the source of a lot of our food. The place abounded in rabbits which were snared and used for meat. Later, when a .22 rifle was bought, it was used to shoot partridges, and prairie chickens, as well as rabbits. Wild berries and mushrooms were available. They made sure they had a barrel of sauerkraut put up for the winter.

Some of the typical Ukrainian foods were pyrohy, borsch, holubchi, buckwheat sausage, garlic sausage



A Sunday gathering at the Sendziak farm 1919. Back Row: Left: Metro Babiak, Nick, Anna, Rose, Effie, Alec Babiak, Einer, Andrew Babiak Front Row: Left: Billy, Billy Mucha, Fred Popik, Andrew Powlik, John Mucha, Bill Powlick.

rings, and headcheese. Paska was baked at Easter. For something very special, some of the family would help Mother with pysanky (decorated eggs).

In early years rabbit skins were used for socks. Feathers were used for comforters and pillows. Flour bags were made into bedding, towels and clothing.

It was necessary to supplement the meager living from the farm. In early summers Father worked on the railroad for \$1.00 a day. In the winter, he cut willow posts which he hauled to Leduc and sold for 2¢ each. He also sold tamarack posts. Later, when sawmills opened up, he cut logs and sold them to the mill.

In the winter Billy trapped, with the muskrat pelts selling for 20¢, and the weasel pelts selling for 20 to 30¢.

As time went on, Kost filed on a homestead 1½ miles south of Dad's. He married Rosie Mucha and they farmed there. Later he sold the place and got employment in Edmonton and other places.

The older girls left home and worked in the city before getting married. There were additions to our family in this new land, but death took its toll. Babies were born at home, sometimes with the help of a midwife. There was a lack of medical care for these pioneers.

The Greek Catholic faith played an important role in the lives of these Ukrainian settlers. In the first years, it was necessary to travel on rough trails by wagon to the Rabbit Hill Church for baptisms of babies. Later, a priest came occasionally to celebrate mass in the little church built in the area.

It was unfortunate that these settlers were so long without the facilities of a school. However, in 1914 when the Dniester school was opened, that was the first time the children of our family, with the exception of Anna, had attended school. She had spent the previous year in the United States and had gone to school there. She was a good help to Mr. Ross Annett, the teacher at Dniester School, as she was the only one who could speak English.

Dad still had ideas of improving his lot. He had saved up some money with which he bought a CPR quarter, the S.E. 19-49-27 W4, in the Willow Creek

S.D. area. He was glad that now he was only 17 miles from Leduc. We made this our new home in the spring of 1915.

Land was cleared and more grain was grown. In 1918 we had our first wheat crop sown on 10 acres of breaking. Our great hopes for this crop were shattered by an early frost in July.

Father bought 2 more quarters of land in the same section, one for Billy and one for Einer. Later on, more land was bought so that Nick could own a quarter.

At first threshing was done by either Ohrn's, or Westlund's steam outfits. The bundles of grain had been stacked previously, waiting to be threshed. In later years, stook threshing was done. By that time our family had purchased a threshing outfit of our own.

The grain had to be hauled with horses to the elevators in Leduc. This was done in the winter, by sleigh, when it was easier and there was more time. How glad everyone was when the railroad came to Thorsby in 1929! What a shorter haul! Then after the railroad was completed in Leduc, 1930, there were elevators located at Buford, on Billy's farm. What a pleasant change!

The farming of the Sendziak family expanded. At the present time, they own over 1400 acres of land and this is farmed by Nick and son Gordon, and by Larry



First car in the Buford area. Ann Sendziak, Ainer Senziak, Wm. Muchen, Bill Sendziak.

and Donald (Billy's sons).

Nick and Kate looked after our parents on the home place until Dad died in 1944 at the age of 83, and Mother in 1948 at the age of 78. Surviving of the second and third generations of our family are;

Mrs. William (Stella) Germaniuk, Parkland

Nursing Home, Leduc.

Kost's family — Mrs. John (Anne) Harrison and Stephen Sendziak, Edmonton.

Mrs. Jack (Clara) McDonald, Chehalis,

Washington.

William's family — widow Katherine (nee Turta), sons Larry and Donald who farm near Buford, and daughter Mrs. Cyril (Diana) Dool of Edmonton. Donald is also an instrumentation and analyzer technician at Imperial Oil's Strathcona refinery. It is interesting that Donald's wife, Krystyna, lived about 4 kilometers from Laszki, until 1971.

Ole and Marie Olsen, Edmonton.

Mrs. John (Anna) Sereda, Calmar and son Tobey who farms the Sereda home place and other land in the Devon area, and daughter Mrs. Isabelle McClaine who is a secretary in Houston, Texas.

Mrs. Hamilton (Rose) Graham, Edmonton.

Nick and Kate (nee Lickacz) and son Gordon live on the home place near Buford, and farm. Their other son, Joseph, was inspired by the ability and dedication of "Doc Hankin to become an orthopedic surgeon now in practice in Grande Praire.

Mrs. George (Effie) Brown, Leduc. I was fortunate in being able to take my Grades 11 and 12 in Edmonton and to take up teaching. I taught school at Halicz, Atlanta (Colinton), and Leduc for a total of 25

years before retiring in 1976.

Daughters — Mrs. Allan (Doreen) Wronko, Leduc; Mrs. Allyn (Lorna) Burroughs, Calgary; Mrs. Eddie (Norma) Messner, Leduc, who taught school for 14 years; Mrs. Tom (Marian) Taylor, Leduc, a family physician, Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton; and son Kenneth, Leduc, a professional electrical engineer with Edmonton City Telephones and farmer of the Brown home place.

With a strong faith in God, our family prospered in the new land. The present generations enjoy the luxuries of our way of life because of our parents' faith, foresight, ambition, humility, resourcefulness, and fortitude to withstand the hardships of pioneer life. Our parents have been strong figures that we have looked up to, and silently thanked for making the decision to come to Canada.

JOHN AND MARY TERLESKY

by John Terlesky

In my early years I was very fond of horses, and loved to work with them. Prior to taking over my father's farm in 1932, I worked for farmers in the Wetaskiwin district for 50¢ to \$1.00 per day. I had to



John. J. Terlesky and his saddle horse, Queeny.

launder my own clothes as I could not afford to send them out at the wages I was receiving. Many times I walked home and back to Wetaskiwin as I had no other means of transportation.

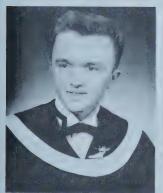
In 1932, I came back home and settled into farming my father's farm. By that time I had 6 horses to farm with. I worked the land with horses for about 9 years. In 1941, I sold some of my horses and bought my first tractor. During the winter months, in 1938 to 1942, from about November to spring, I would go custom feed-cutting and cutting wood for other farmers.

In 1939 I married Mary Poholka from South Edmonton and brought her home to the farm where we all lived in the house my father built in 1913.

In 1945 my brother Arthur came back from overseas. Art and I went into partnership and bought the Buford store which he operated while I continued farming. Art took over the Buford Post Office from Mrs. Larson in 1947 and was postmaster until he received a job with the Edmonton Post Office in 1953. Then my wife Mary and I operated the store, and I also did the farming. Mary was postmistress from 1953 until we sold the store in the fall of 1961 and moved back to the farm.

I was very interested in community affairs. I served on the council of the M.D. of Leduc for 6 years from 1946 to 1952. In 1946, when first elected as councillor in Division 4, there were no high-grade roads. The allotment for Division 4, for 1946 was about \$9000., and of that the previous councillor overspent in 1945 by about half, so with only about \$4500. left of the allotment I still managed to build 13 miles of high-grade road, bladegrade 3 miles of road, which was never opened before, and maintained all other roads in the division.

I was the first chairman of the Agriculture Service Board and was president of the Calverley Mutual Telephone Co., for a short period of time, and as the company has not yet dissolved, I am still vice-president. I served on the Alberta Egg and Fowl Marketing Board from 1968 to 1972. I was the first agent in Buford for the United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Oil and Gas Co., also a delegate to the United Farmers of Alberta for a number of years. I am a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool and on the advisory committee for the second term. I am chairman of the Agricultural Development Committee in the County of Leduc, a member of Unifarm Local 954, secretary-treasurer of Neutral R.E.A. Ltd., and treasurer of the Thorsby Rural Fire Protection Association Ltd. I am also a trustee on the Leduc Hospital Board.



Russel J. Terlesky. 1962 graduate of U. of A. in Petroleum Engineering.



Richard P. Terlesky, 1966 graduate of U. of A. in Electrical Engineering.

After moving back to the farm, my wife and I went into the poultry business for about 10 years. First we sold hatching eggs for a few years, and then we went into the commercial egg business.

In 1963 we started on our new home on the farm, and worked on it slowly until January of 1965 when we moved into the basement for a few months until the ground floor was completed, so that we could move upstairs. From there on we made more progress, as the finances would allow, as the years went by.

We have 2 sons, who by that time were finished high school and were attending the University of Alberta. They both started school at Willow Creek. When the schools were centralized and Willow Creek School was closed, they went to Calmar where they finished high school before going to university.

Russel received a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering in 1962 and is now living in Fox Creek, Alberta. He married Diana May Shmilar in 1966. They have 2 sons, Michael and Jarett. Richard received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1966 and is living in Calgary. He married Victoria Joan Campbell in 1968. They have a son and a daughter, Daryn and Laurel. Both Russel and Richard belong to the Assoc. of Professional Engineers of Alberta.

My wife Mary and I still live on the farm which my father, Michael (Terlecki) Terlesky homesteaded, and has been in the Terlesky name for the past 75 years.

THE MICHAEL TERLESKY (TERLECKI) STORY

Michael Terlecki came to Strathcona from Wysock Wietlin Przemysl (Ukraine) in 1897. He worked with the CPR in Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, Medicine Hat, and Lethbridge. He bought a farm in the Nisku area, SW 15-50-25-W4 at \$3.00 per acre - the present site of the Edmonton International Airport. He also bought a team of horses at Claresholm. On his way home from work he walked them all the way to his farm. Near Wetaskiwin he stopped to rest his horses near an Indian camp where the Indians that night were having a pow-wow. He also bought a few pigs, some cattle, and a few tools required for farming.



Grandpa Mickael Terlesky (Terlecki).



Grandma Anna Terlesky (Terlecki).

Anna Adamic came to Winnipeg from the Ukraine with her mother and brothers, at the age of 15 years, in 1898. They lived in the St. Boniface district for 2 years. Her older brothers decided to go west to homestead. They arrived in Strathcona in 1900.

It was here that Michael met Anna and they were married February 15, 1901 in the first Russian Orthodox Church in Nisku. Her mother and youngest brother Paul, age 6, came to live with them on the farm at Nisku. Later that year, Anna's mother passed on and Michael decided to move west to the Buford district as he had heard he could get 160 acres of land for \$10.00. Michael homesteaded on SW 18-49-27-W4, built a log cabin, sold his farm at Nisku, and moved the family to the homestead. He received his naturalization

papers in 1903 and his homestead patent in 1906.

The log cabin was just 1 room, and it was mud-plastered and white-washed both inside and outside. The barn and chicken house were built from logs with sod roofs. All the logs and lumber for the buildings were cut on the homestead. In 1913, with the help of Messers Mike and Louis Mudry, he built the second house which had 2 rooms downstairs and 1 large room upstairs. This house was also built from logs cut on the farm. Later he put siding on the house. This house is still standing today.

The home was heated with a wood stove. All the other furniture, table, benches, beds, etc., were hand-made. Anna washed clothes by hand. Most of the food came from the farm. They had milk, cream, and butter. Wild fruit was plentiful during the summer. In 1909, Michael bought a 20th Century sewing machine for \$15.00. Anna sewed all the clothes for the family. In 1911 Michael bought a cream separator for \$30.00 making it much easier for them to separate the milk. Anna would make butter, pack it in wooden pails, then carry it to the little store and Post Office about a mile away, the first Buford Post Office located on SE 12-49-27-W4 operated by John Sahlberg from about 1903. There she exchanged the butter for tea, sugar, coffee, flour, yeast, and coal oil, which ever was needed most. Those times were very hard as they were short of money.



Wedding at the Terlesky home - 1920.

Michael bought a shot gun when he came west to the homestead. One day a neighbor, Mrs. Dixon, who lived to the north, called because there was a bear at her place. Michael took the gun and ran to the Dixon residence but by the time he got there, another neighbor, Mrs. Babiak, called that the bear was at her place. By the time he got to the Babiak home, Anna called because the bear was looking through her window. Anna had seen the bear kill a calf and a pig. Anna would lock the children in the house when she went out to do chores for fear they would get lost in the bush or that the bear would get them.

The first well was dug by hand about 10 or 20 feet deep. Not only did they use this well for water, but they would store their perishable foods such as cream, milk, and butter hung in pails down the well. Sometimes the bear would come and pull the pail out of the well and drink some of the milk or cream, and spill the rest on the ground.

Land clearing was a very hard job as it had to be done by hand, so the fields were small and the first clearing occurred wherever the bush was the lightest. Michael cut willow posts during the winter then hauled them to Leduc. He spent the nights at some friends' places to get some rest for himself and his horses. The neighbours were all very good helping each other.

At first the crops were seeded by hand. Later the neighbors went together and bought a seed drill. Harvesting was done with a sickle. A rope was made out of the long straw to tie the grain into bundles, which were then stooked to dry. Threshing was done with a flail. Oats and barley were the first grains grown. Very little wheat was grown, as the seasons were too short for wheat to mature properly. Potatoes were also grown in large quantities and sold either in the fall, or stored in root houses and sold in the spring.

In 1917, Eric Westlund did the threshing for Michael; 522 bushels of oats at 4¢ per bushel, and 4 bushels of wheat at 6¢ a bushel.

Forest fires were a great threat in those days. Michael plowed around the buildings then left the family and went fighting fires. Sometimes he would be gone for days. Often it was very smoky and in the evening, the skyline would be red and flames could be seen leaping high. Wild animals moved ahead of the fire and could be seen grazing in the fields. Being very difficult to keep their own cattle near by, as there were no fences, they put a bell on one of the cows. They would locate their herd by listening for the sound of the bell. Sometimes they had to go as far as where the town of Thorsby is now located (about 4 miles away) to find them.

Michael cut the large trees and timbers, then hauled the logs to Eric Westlund's sawmill to be cut into lumber. The smaller trees were cut up for firewood.

Their social life was limited as there were no radios or televisions or theaters in those days. They visited their neighbors, read books (which they brought withthem), Bibles, Ukrainian newspapers, etc. They would attend church whenever possible as in the early days there were no roads and the only way was following trails by walking.

The first church was St. Nicholas Greek Catholic Church on SW 34-48-1-W5. This church burned down. Then another Greek Catholic church was built $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of the farm on SW 13-49-28-W4. Later

this church was moved to Thorsby, and the St. Peter's and Paul's Ukrainian Orthodox Church was built.

The children all attended the Willow Creek School. In the winter they had shoes to wear, but in the summer they went to school barefoot. Their first teacher was Miss Nancy Campbell, followed by Mr. Rogers. It was hard for the children as they had to learn to speak the English language first, because at home Ukrainian was the only language spoken.

Michael paid his first school tax in 1904 which was in arrears from 1903, \$8.80 plus 45¢ interest, a total of \$9.25. He also paid his first land tax in 1904, of \$4.00.

Their greatest hardship was learning the English language, to be able to communicate with the other settlers who did not speak Ukrainian, or when they went to the store and Post-Office. They had to learn it by themselves or from the children who were already in school. The second hardship was not having enough money for food and clothing. Children wore hand-me-downs. If one child outgrew a pair of shoes, they were worn by the next one that they fit.

Michael and Anna had 10 children; 7 daughters, and 3 sons. One daughter, the second eldest, died at the age of 1. Their names were; Eva, Mary, Anna, Pearl, John, Kathleen, Rose, Paul, and Arthur. Both Paul and Arthur served in the Canadian Armed Forces

during World War 2.

Michael retired from farming in 1932, when John took over the farming operation. Michael passed away on February 25, 1945 at the age of 77 years and 3 months. He was predeceased by 2 daughters, Eva and Rose. He had 11 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Anna passed away on February 8, 1955 at the age of 71 years. She left 4 daughters, 3 sons, 14 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

PAUL W. TERLESKY

By J.J. Terlesky

Born in Buford January 26, 1917, he attended the Willow Creek School until he completed the 11th grade. On the 12th day of August, at the age of 28 years he enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces (Infantry) at Esquimalt, B.C.

He married Georgina Standerwick of Victoria, B.C. in September, 1939. In November, 1939, leaving his wife behind, he left for Winnipeg and then to Halifax and overseas, arriving at Greenock,

Scotland Dec. 29, 1939.

He spent some time at Farnborough, Dunfirmline, Aylstone, and Godstone, England. In October, 1940 he was transferred to the Armoured Corp., and was at Chatfield, England when he received the rank of Sergeant in 1941. He then spent 2 more years in parts of England and Scotland until, in August 1943, he was sent to Sicily and then to Italy.

There was a period of time we did not hear from



Paul Terlesky, learning to walk (1918).



Mr. & Mrs. P.W. Terlesky (nee Georgena Standerwick) Sept. 30, 1939.



Art and Paul Terlesky in front of Buford Store.

Paul, and did not know where he was or what had happened to him but in August 1944, he arrived in Woking, England from Italy.

In February, 1945 he was on his way home to Canada, reaching Halifax, then home to visit his mother, father and sisters and brother in Buford for 2 weeks. He then went back to Vancouver, Victoria,

Nanaimo, and Milnes Landing, B.C.

He was Sergeant from 1941 until his return to Canada from overseas in 1945. From March 1946 to 1950, he was Corporal at Camp Shilo, Manitoba, Camp Borden, Ontario, and Calgary, Alberta.

In 1947 he was transferred to Construction Engineering Branch Department of National Defence, receiving the rank of Staff Sergeant in 1953 while at Rivers, Manitoba, Chilliwack, B.C., and

Regina Saskatchewan.

In December, 1955 he received the rank of Master Warrant Officer. He was in charge at Griesbach Army Base, Edmonton, Alberta at the time, until 1961. From 1961 to July 1962 he was in Egypt with the United Nations. In 1962 he was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer until his retirement from the armed forces in 1965, after serving in the Armed Forces for 30 years.

He lived in White Rock, B.C. for 4 years after his retirement, then moved to Victoria, B.C. He then bought property in Sydney, B.C. where he lived the balance of his life until August 29, 1977.

THE WAY IT WAS

by Mildred Westlund

My father, Erik Westlund, immigrated to the United States from Gagnef, Sweden when he was a boy of 18. In that year, 1887, many people were immigrating to the United States looking for the new frontier. He remembered the rough three-week voyage vividly. The immigrant passengers rode in steerage with the trunks and crates. They were pushed and pulled from pillar to post with the roughness of the sea. Everyone was seasick and the air was foul with human odors.



Mrs. & Mrs. Westlund in their brand new Ford car - 1917.

When America was reached, Dad made his way to Hoffman, Minnesota where other relatives had gone before him. There was a place for him to stay and time for him to get acquainted with the new land and country. He lived there for a few years where he met and married Anna Lindberg in 1895.

My mother, Anna Lindberg, immigrated to the United States from Gagnef, Sweden with her family in the year 1879 when she was 3 years old. They settled in the village of Urness, which was 3 miles from Hoffman, Minnesota. The farms in this area of Minnesota were small and had stoney, hilly land. This did not appeal to Dad. He had visions of something

larger and more profitable.

In about 1897 my grandfather, Andrew Lindberg, had moved to Canada and had kept in contact with his relatives back in Hoffman. He told of land, 160 acres in size, that was free if the occupant stayed on it for 3 years, clearing the land and making improvements. This sounded like the golden opportunity to Mother and Dad. They thought it over and talked with neighbors and friends. They all decided to gather up their belongings and in the spring of 1899 they



Westlunds' first drilling outfit-



Eric Westlund used this type of engine and homemade 2 bottom breaking plow.

boarded the train for Leduc, Canada, men, women and children!

Upon arriving at their destination Dad had to see about the land he was going to locate through a government land agent. He chose homestead land on SE 20-49-27 W4, 18 miles from Leduc. It must have been difficult finding the stakes that gave the location in all that brush and timber! Now he had to get his family established somewhere while he built a log cabin and a shelter for the livestock he had brought with him. Mother and their 2 children, Esther and Einer, went to stay at her father's place. She had her sewing machine and spinning wheel with her and was busy sewing and spinning for the new baby that was expected.

Dad cut trees from his own land and soon had a shelter for the livestock and a start on the cabin, in spite of the rain! The wild hay grew tall and luscious in some of the small open places and around the willows. Dad cut it with a scythe and threw it up on the willows to dry. It would have rotted if it had been left on the wet ground.

In spite of the weather, he completed his cabin so the family could move in before the end of the year, and Mother gave birth to her third child. (She had 8 children here in Canada, never seeing a doctor, and with only a mid-wife at birth.) Mother and Dad were blessed with 7 sons and 3 daughters: Esther, Einer, Elmer, Henry, Oscar, Ella, Robert, Mildred, Ernest, and Morley.

The family was now facing its first winter in Canada and it proved to be long and tough, but with

plenty of wood around they could at least keep warm. Some of their essentials would have to be bought in Leduc. As that was a long trip it was not made any more times than was absolutely necessary. They had to plan a long way ahead for their necessities. My sister Esther recalls, "Dad would get up at two o'clock in the morning to start his trip to Leduc so he could be back by evening. He always managed to have a little treat for us."

It was during one of these trips when Mother was left alone, that a band of Indians came riding across the yard in their noisy fashion! Mother was really frightened, she didn't know what to expect. She had heard that there were Indians about and that they could be dangerous, but never dreamed that any would make an appearance so close to home. However, they followed the trail northward and were



Westlunds' last house improvement - 1930.

never seen again.

When spring rolled around there was much to do. Land had to be cleared and trails had to be made so people could get in and out. He could see that he would need more land, so he purchased a CPR quarter adjoining his homestead for \$3.00 an acre. The location was SW 21-49-27 W4. It was solid bush which was cleared off later when help was more available.

With settlers moving in and having children, a school would have to be organized. Dad donated an acreage on the north west corner of his newly bought CPR quarter and work was begun on the construction of a one-room school in the year 1900.

The school teacher usually wanted to board with a family who lived close to the school. We had quite a few teachers stay at our house. I am not quite sure what the enrollment was that opening year. The school was called "Willow Creek", an appropriate name as there was a creek running through the south east corner of the school grounds heavily bushed with willows on each bank. It is still the same to this day. Dad was Secretary-Treasurer of the school for a number of years.

Not counting the rain, water was a big problem in the early years. Many holes were dug on the farm for house use as well as for the stock, but they were never very satisfactory. Dad invented a drilling machine that was rotated by means of a horse, driven in a circular direction by a younger member of the family. This was quite a long process and a very boring job for the driver, but patience brought results. At the depth of 200 ft., 'soft' water was struck! What a blessing this was. This was in 1915 and friends and neighbors were overwhelmed. It wasn't long before Dad drilled wells for all who wanted one. I believe all of them are still in use after 68 years. I should state here that where Mother and Dad came from in the States, the water was so hard that they had to use lye to soften it. Many times after doing a wash Mother's hands would be raw. So, having lovely soft water from a well, was almost unbelievable and a real delight. Later on, the horse and driver were replaced by an engine, and my brother Oscar, when he was older, took over the well-drilling.

One of the first things Dad did was build a blacksmith shop. With his forge and anvil he did many things. If he didn't have a tool that he needed, he would make it. He believed in strengthening existing tools and machinery so they wouldn't break at a crucial time.

He also had a sawmill set up in the yard. People would haul in their logs in winter time and they would get them planed in the spring.

In 1910 Dad had cleared a piece of land about 3 acres in size, close to the house. He had broken and worked up the soil as best he could, for at that time he did not possess the implements necessary for the job. He dragged some large spruce boughs across the field to make it smooth for sowing the winter wheat that fall. In the summer of 1911 he had a flourishing stand of wheat that grew to the height of 4 ft. with heads

measuring 4 inches in length. What a bumper crop on a small acreage! There was no need for sprays and fertilizers in those early days.

When it came time to harvest the grain there were no threshing machines around at that time so Dad used a 'flail'. His helpers were his 3 eldest sons. Einer, Elmer, and Henry, who was only 10 years old. The wheat was flailed over a large piece of canvas, then the grain was scooped up and bagged. This large crop from a small field was just a forerunner to what would follow when other fields were opened up.

To have wheat made into flour meant a two-day trip into Edmonton with the team of horses. We can remember Dad telling us of one trip he had made in the spring of the year. Coming back from the city with the sacks of flour on the wagon, he came to the creek which he had crossed the day before. Now it was swollen with the spring run-off and had overflowed its banks. The wooden bridge was washed away! To drive through the water would ruin the flour, so Dad had to carry each bag of flour across the stream, holding it high above his head, and lay it on higher ground. Then he drove the horses through the water, reloaded and carried on.

In the beginning, the trails through the country were not straight, and were very rough with lots of pot holes, but it was not very long before all the settlers got together and made proper roads. It took lots of men using hand-scrapers, spades, and horses and lots of sweat to make these roads possible. They had to corduroy the roads with poles to give them a solid foundation. Each man donated his time and had his taxes reduced.

After the roads had been surveyed and made, telephone lines were installed and telephones became available to those who wanted one. This proved a great convenience and time-saver to those who had them. This was done in 1910-11.

It was at this time that Dad saw he would have to build on to the log cabin. With the family getting larger, a bigger house had to be built. So with his steam engine and lumber mill, he sawed his own lumber and added an upstairs to the cabin, sided the whole thing, and made the necessary improvement. Grandpa Lindberg, who was a good carpenter, was a great help with these renovations.

By 1915-16 Dad had quite a bit of clearing done so the fields got larger. He also had his sights set for more land. He purchased an adjoining quarter to the homestead and another quarter 3 miles away which he intended to divide among his sons if they cared to be farmers. The price had gone up to \$11.00 an acre.

Although there was lots of work there were also happy leisure times if you can believe it! One winter Dad made a beautiful guitar in his leisure hours. It is still around today and has a wonderful tone. Later on he made a violin also, but it has disappeared over the years.

Mother always kept busy with her family and household duties. On top of that she had some butter

customers in Calgary who took butter from her for a number of years. In 1918 butter sold for 50¢ a pound. Mother was a most ambitious person too. Dad ordered her a knitting machine that would help her make socks and mitts for their large family. When it arrived in Leduc and Dad went to pick it up, the station agent told Dad if he could put that machine together and make it work, he could run a station! But make it work he did. Mother could turn out a sock in half an hour if she wasn't interrupted.

When Mother got her knitting machine, Dad made her a cabinet out of hardwood to hold the machine and all the equipment that went with it. When it wasn't in use it made a nice piece of furniture. At this point I would like to mention Dad's glue pot. The glue came in a large slab and was broken into little pieces to be melted in a can which was placed in boiling water on the stove. How we all hated that smelly pot and the messy cloth swab that was in it! Whenever Dad was making a piece of furniture (which was quite often) there would be that pot. Some glue always managed to get on the floor or stove. There was no such thing as Bondfast in a plastic bottle in those days. We just had to put up with the glue pot! It went with progress.

Mother would have what she called a spinning bee every summer. The neighbor ladies would come with their spinning wheels and carders. Mother would have her wool all washed and ready. Some ladies would card and some would spin. They filled every corner of the living room. The women would come early and then Mother would have a big dinner for them. When they left late in the afternoon all her yarn would be ready for the knitting machine, for socks and mitts for the winter.

In those early years peddlers appeared on the scene and made their rounds to many of the settlers. They carried patent medicines and everything that a family would need in the line of merchandise. This was a great convenience, for he carried all sizes of clothing, lovely cotton prints and dresses for the ladies. Thread was given free with the yardage of material you purchased. There were pants, jackets and gloves for men, even shoes and rubbers. It was like a store coming to your home. The children were often given a pencil and scribbler or perhaps candy and gum. It was a great fun day when the peddler man came calling, displaying so many wonderful things before your eyes. My folks often bought things they needed, thus saving themselves the long trip into Leduc. One of these peddlers was Mr. Joe Hoffman. He later opened a store in the town of Calmar and did a thriving business.

By the year 1918 progress was seen everywhere. Dad had enough lumber sawn by this time to put the second addition on the house to accommodate his large family. It consisted of a large dining room, kitchen and 3 bedrooms upstairs. This meant a little extra cash for groceries and other necessities as well as extra work. There were always big meals to prepare as well as baking, churning butter, sewing, mending, and doing huge washes. Dad tried to make mother's work

load a little easier by mechanizing her washing machine and churn with pulleys attached to a shaft. The shaft was turned by an engine outside the summer house.

Small gasoline engines and tractors were making an appearance on the market around this time. Dad soon saw where he could make use of these to help lighten the workload in other places around the farm as well. My brothers were all quite capable of operating these machines, so things progressed and much work was accomplished in less time.

Automobiles were also appearing on the market. The day that Dad decided to go into Leduc to buy a brand new Model T Ford was a day of great excitement for our family! We children could hardly wait to see that car coming down the road. The bush had been cleared away by now and we could see quite a distance. We all climbed on a lean-to on a granary and sat there all day, waiting and watching until finally, there it came with Dad driving very carefully. How the teenage boys wanted to get at the wheel and drive! They thought they knew more than Dad did about the automobile. But the war was still on and gasoline was rationed. We were allowed 5 gallons per week. However we were all taken for a drive in it and it was quite a thrill. It was a vehicle well-earned after all the struggles and hardships of the early days. The trips into Leduc and other places were a pleasure now. It was great not having to get the horses ready whenever you had to go somewhere.

However, horses were by no means left out! They had their use for a good many years. When Dad was sawing lumber for all the buildings he had in mind, the first one he built was a big barn that housed all the cattle with a lean-to that held 12 to 14 horses.

In the early 1920's there was a Baptist minister from Wetaskiwin, who drove around the countryside with a team and buggy. He would call on different families and many times held a service in our living room as there was no Baptist church in this area. There were also gospel singers and another minister who used to make their rounds on Sunday afternoons. A spiritual uplifting now and again was good for all who wanted to listen.

The threshing season was always a big time around the farm. How exciting it was to see the big outfit pulling in to start work. The engineer would give long blasts on the whistle to let us know they were coming! First came the big steamer pulling the threshing machine. Then came the 'water monkey' sitting on top of his water tank and behind him about 4 bundle teams. There would be a crew of about 20 men and each had his own job to do. The bunkhouse would be pulled in on skids to accommodate the hired help. It was a good place for the men to warm up on a cold day and to dry out their socks and mitts. An airtight heater would make it warm in minutes. Each bunk was provided with a strawfilled mattress. The men brought their own bedrolls.

What a busy time for the womenfolk too! Hours

were spent in the kitchen preparing lots of good food. The men were fed 3 big meals a day plus a big lunch in the fields in the late afternoon. The neighbor ladies were always ready to give a helping hand and their youngsters would be along too, so suppers were usually 3 sittings long. This went on for about 2 weeks. How happy everyone was when all the grain was safely in off the fields. In these early years oats sold for 15¢ a bushel, barley for 30¢, and wheat for 60¢.

When the men headed for the lumber camps depended on how early they could wind up the threshing in the fall. Sometimes it was before Christmas and sometimes it wasn't until after the New Year. The grain was bundled and stacked, so even if it was a cold day they could thresh. Mother was always doing up huge grub boxes for the logging camps. She would see that there was plenty of bread and butter on hand, along with eggs, milk and cream. She would do up delicious meatballs, roasts and even doughnuts if she had the time.

Dad loved his hours in the blacksmith shop. In the spring of 1926 he made a mammoth breaking plow. Now that he had a big steamer he would be able to handle it with ease. His neighbor hired him to break up some land for them and the plough proved very satisfactory.

Tractors were beginning to be used too, so Dad bought one of these. My brothers liked using it for breaking instead of horsès.

One winter the older boys made a skating rink not too far from the well so they could keep it flooded. What fun everyone had! Many came quite a distance to skate. On a moonlit night the yard would be full. It was beautiful skating for hours. Many a skate was sharpened in the blacksmith shop during the evening. Dad used to make our skates as beginners. The blade was run through a wooden frame to fit the boot, then tied on the front and back. They worked just fine and we did learn to skate. We used them until we could afford to buy a pair.

The Christmas concerts were always a feature that both old and young looked forward to just before Christmas. They were held in the Lutheran Church of our district and were always filled to capacity. The teachers always had a long, entertaining program, consisting of Christmas songs, dialogues, drills, recitations, and skits. On the day of the concert a group of pupils was appointed to decorate the church with spruce boughs, bells and tinsel. A lovely big Christmas tree was fully decorated with homemade and store-bought decorations. Candles were used to light the tree. It made a very festive scene.

All the children could hardly wait until the end of the program when Santa Claus would make his appearance and present each one with a gift and a bag filled with mixed nuts, candy, mandarin oranges, and apples. Nobody was left out. When it was all over we gathered up our belongings, bundled up and snuggled down in the sleigh box full of hay and blankets and headed for home. The horses, who had been tied up for hours, were raring to go home too. So, with sleigh bells ringing, we were off!

In March 1930 Dad decided to make further alterations to the house. He wanted to change the roof to a cottage style so it could incorporate all the verandas under one roof. He had it all figured out so the new roof went on over the old one (in case of inclement weather). The old peaks were then torn down from the inside. This meant lots of mess and renovations on the inside as well. Dad had all his own lumber that he had sawn and planed. He hired 2 neighbors who were qualified carpenters to help him with this project. It took all summer to complete and it was a great improvement when it was all finished.

Dad's next project was to install some waterworks in the house. It was a gravity system. Water was pumped into the house by a windmill and was held in a large stock tank in the attic. An eight-gallon hot water tank was installed in the bathroom on the second floor which was directly above the kitchen stove (this tank lasted until 2 years ago). The water was heated by having a 'water front' attached to the stove. Dad put a sink and tub in the kitchen too. What luxury! He also ran some pipes into the summer house which was great help when it came washday.

He had some kind of contraption rigged up in the attic to let us know when the tank was full. There was an overflow pipe on it but he wanted to know when the tank was full. I can't recall how it was made but I remember it made a great racket! Sometimes when we were low on water we would leave the windmill turned on at night, to catch the evening breezes. Many a time that alarm would go off in the middle of the night and we would try to out-wait each other so we wouldn't have to go out to shut the windmill off. However, this was just a small inconvenience. The water system was really greatly appreciated and served us well for 20 years. When Calgary power came in it was replaced with a pressure system.

Dad always seemed to figure out his work at night before he went to sleep when all was peace and quiet. We don't know how long he had worked on this idea. Hehad visions of going back to the States to see some of his and Mother's friends and relations. His idea was to build an accommodation that would fit the chassis of his 1929 Chev. truck.

He made careful measurements and started early in March, 1934. The weather was mild so he was able to do his building in the barn loft. He wanted it to be as light as possible but strong where it should be. It was truly a neat structure! It was equipped with seats on both sides, with luggage space beneath and racks about the windows. There was a cabinet in one corner to hold our groceries, dishes, pots and a portable stove. A long table that could seat 12 was made so it could be tucked away while travelling. When it was all completed, Dad let down the big door of the hay loft and gradually lowered the accommodation with the loft ropes and pulleys on to the truck chasis. A perfect fit! It even had a space built over the truck roof. We

think that this was the first 'camper' ever built.

Invitations were open to anyone who wanted to go on the trip. We ended up with 13 passengers, but unfortunately one was turned back at the U.S. border. The rest of us went on to a good trip. Gasoline was 29¢ in Canada and 10¢ a gallon in the States. Everyone 'chipped in' for gas and groceries so it made a very reasonable trip for all. A tent was pitched every night to accommodate the men-folk. We started our trip in the middle of May 1934, and returned home the first week in July.

Many winter evenings were spent reading the few magazines and newspapers that one could afford. The "Farmers' Advocate" and the "Farm and Ranch Review" were 2 of these papers. The old kerosene table lamp was used for years until Dad found an ad in one of the magazines advertising the Aladdin Lamp. It used kerosene but was made in such a way that it reflected a whiter, brighter light. He sent for one and it proved to be very good. Soon they were on the market and everyone had one.

A few years later some people were turning to electricity by wiring their houses and buying Delco Engines with full sets of heavy-duty batteries which supplied the energy. We bought a 32 volt windcharger that worked on the same principle. It supplied us with all the light we needed. This windcharger was mounted on a 65 foot, well-braced tower. It served us until Calgary Power came along. Most farmers had electricity by 1950.

Mother and Dad were truly blessed with good health. I can never recall either one of them ever being sick or disabled in any way. I might add that we 10 children were equally blessed with good health. My sister Ella had the misfortune of injuring her hip in her early teens and was under a doctor's care for a few years. After spending a year in the sanitorium in Calgary, she returned home with her hip healed. Within a few years she was strong enough to take a hairdressing course. As youngsters the only diseases we had were mumps, measles and jaundice and we came through them without ill effects. When the influenza epidemic swept through the country in 1918-19 it was a time that Mother was most fearful for us all. Someone gave her some horribly smelly stuff that looked like a hard piece of spruce gum. We were to put it in a little sack and wear it around our necks. It was supposed to ward off the 'flu'. Well, we all came through the epidemic without catching it but I attribute that more to Mother's prayers than to that little magic sack. I know she prayed continually for our safety.

I hope that all our dear pioneers, known and unknown, are all wearing 'golden crowns', well-earned for the endurance they came with to open the vast and rich country we live in.

THE WURBAN FAMILY

By Mrs. Ed. Wurban

Steve Wurban was born April 24, 1898 in the Calmar district, the second son of Michael and Martha (Fedechko) Wurban. His parents and his eldest brother Daniel immigrated from Austria in 1896. They were of Ukrainian origin.

After arriving in Canada, then known as North West Territories, his father took out a homestead 2 miles east and 1 mile north of Calmar.

There were 6 children in the Mike Wurban family. Daniel was 7 years old when they arrived in Canada. He later married Nancy Dobko and they settled in the Telfordville district. John farmed the home place until the early 1960's when he had a sale and sold the land, then retired in Leduc. William farmed near Buford till his death in 1961. Anne (Mrs. Gus Andrews) farmed in the Weed Creek district until the early 1960's. They retired in Leduc. Another sister, Kathleen (Mrs. Stanley Ellis), passed away in the early 1950's.



Mike and Martha Wurban (about 1905). Annie, John, Bill, Steve and Dan.

Steve's father passed away in about 1914 leaving his mother and a very young family behind. Steve's mother lived on with sons John and William until her death in about 1953.

The Wurban brothers owned a threshing machine and did custom threshing in the area for many years. In 1919 Steve bought a half-section of school land in the Willow Creek district. He paid \$16.50 an acre for one quarter and \$19.50 an acre for the other quarter. The land is located 4 miles west and ½ mile south of Calmar. Land now, at 1970 prices is over \$300.00 an acre.

In 1925, his brother William took over the west quarter and farmed there until he was killed in an accident in 1961. Farming was not easy in those days, as everything was done with horses.

In May 1927, Steve moved to his farm in the Willow Creek district. On Sept. 6, 1927 he married the former Verena Forster, who was born on Dec. 2, 1909, daughter of the late Gottlieb and Juliane (Quarme) Forster. The Forster family immigrated to Canada when Verena was 3 years old, in 1912, from Vladimer, Russia.

The Forster family settled in the Heimthal district, then lived near Rolly View till 1918 when they took out a homestead 2 miles east of Calmar. Verena has 1 brother, Manuel, living in Thorsby. A sister, Olga Edmond, lives in Calmar, and Martha Holtz of Calgary died in Dec. 1978. Three brothers, Walter, Reinhard and Herman are deceased and 4 sisters, Edna, Emily, Alice Wedman and Hilda Lengert are also deceased. The Forster family attended Dahlgren school which was located 4 miles east and ½ mile south of Calmar.

There were 4 sons and 5 daughters born to the Steve Wurban family: Gladys Virgina, married Stanley Durvec of Leduc and they have a son Robert Stanton and a daughter, Janice Noreen. Robert is a school teacher. Later Gladys married Micheal Rubis son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Rubis of Calmar. They reside in Edmonton.

Allan Richard married Jean Biederman, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Emil Biederman of Leduc. They have 2 daughters, Darlene Linda Louise and Brenda Maureen Gail, and 1 son Ronald Allan. They live on a farm in the Willow Creek district. Richard passed away in 1977.

Edward Stanley married Marie Beck, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Beck of Glen Park. They have 4 sons, Darrell Edward, Terry Wayne, Glenn Stanley and Eldon James and 1 daughter, Audrey Joan. Darrell married Betty Mielnichuk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Mielnichuk of Edmonton. They have 1 daughter, Tina Marie - the first great-grandchild of Steve and Verena Wurban. They reside in Beaumont. Darrell is a licensed Automative mechanic. Audrey married Gary Seehagen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Seehagen of Edmonton. They reside in Edmonton also. Edward and Marie live in the Glen Park district and along with their sons are farming the Beck farm. Edward is also a licensed welder.

Irene Alice married Richard Eisenman formerly of Germany. They have 2 sons, James and Brent, and 1 daughter, Nadine. They reside in Edmonton.

Lorraine Elizebeth married John Crawford of Sault St. Marie, Ont. They have 1 daughter, Louise Evelyn. They reside in Edmonton.

Robert Leroy resides on the farm near Buford that was owned by his uncle William Wurban. Robert is a licensed heavy duty mechanic.

Shirley Rosaline married Charles Noble of Edmonton. They have 1 daughter, Cathy and 2 sons, Douglas and Donald. They reside in Edmonton.

Joyce Marilyn married Fredrick Pawlick, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Nick Pawlick of the Wilton Park district. They have 2 daughters, Christine Joyce and Karin Lorraine and 1 son, Dwayne Fredrick. They reside on an acreage in the Willow Creek district.

Howard Gordon married Andrea Klein, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Klein of Millet. They have 1 son, Darren Howard and 1 daughter, Deana Andrea. They reside on the Steve Wurban family farm in the



Steve Wurban Family.
Mr. & Mrs. Wurban in center. L. to R.: Irene, Howard, Joyce, Edward,
Gladys, Lorraine and Robert. (late Allan insert)

Willow Creek district.

The Wurban children attended Willow Creek school and Calmar schools.

Steve Wurban had a small repair shop on his farm where he spent many hours repairing machinery. He has passed on his mechanical skills to his sons and grandsons. He also had a well-drilling outfit and he drilled many water wells in the surrrounding areas. Later the skill was passed on to his eldest son Richard, who also drilled and repaired many wells in the district.

During the oil boom in the 1940's in the Calmar-Leduc area the 3 eldest sons all worked in the oil fields. Later, after the youngest son finished school, he also worked in the oil fields. For the past 10 years he has worked in the office for Nabor's drilling at Nisku.

In 1968 the youngest son Howard, took over the family farm. Steve and Verena bought a house in Calmar and retired there.

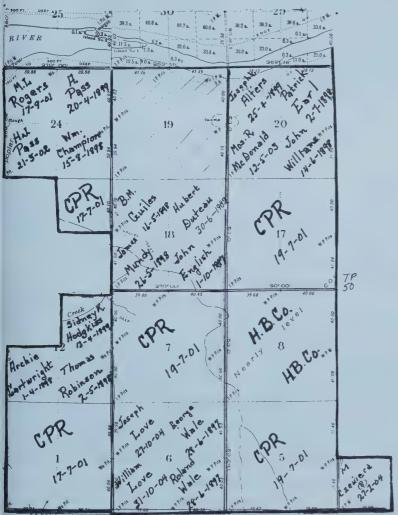
On Sept. 6, 1977 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a banquet at the Towne House Hotel in Leduc. The whole family attended including their 22 grandchildren and 1 greatgrandchild.

In April 1978 Steve celebrated his 80th birthday. He still has his driver's licence and can usually be seen at the local auctions on Auction Mart Days. They are both in reasonably good health.

Wilton Park



Wilton Park School



School Pistrict No. 508
July 3, 1899

The First Homesteaders & Grants to the CPR

The Information on this Map Courtesy of: Alberta Prov. Archives and Alberta Gov't Map Division



Spring of 1919 Teacher Agnes Sandstrom (nee Dixon)

WILTON PARK SCHOOL #508

by Emily Dobko

The first school of Wilton Park 508 was registered June 3, 1899, at Regina in the days of the Northwest Territorial Govt. William and Pat Earl built the log building to serve as a school. William Champion named it Wilton Park after his home place in England. The first teacher was Miss Walker and the second one was a Mr. Brown. There were times that the school was without a teacher, perhaps lack of funds had something to do with it.

Wilton Park district was settled mostly by English people and a lot of them came up from the United States. Most of the land along the river was settled first. Where further south the land was low, and in early days, with poor roads, and no ditches, the drainage was not good.

Some of the first settlers were J. Dunn, H. Clark. M. Husband, W. Earl, W. Champion, J. Short, A. Petrie, T. English, G. Beatty and P. Mollison.

Before long most of these families moved out, to be replaced by immigrants from Europe of Ukrainian descent. Pete Mollison was the only one to stay on. He married Miss King who taught in Wilton Park in 1912. Their son, Jim Mollison, still lives on the old Mollison home place.

School taxes were from \$10.00 to 16.00 then, on a quarter of land. The school districts collected the taxes and paid the school expenses including the teacher's salary. Their salaries were about \$700.00 a year.

In 1916 a new school was built to replace the old log one. It was sold to John Fedan for \$11.00. John Fedan was the father of Mrs. Bessie Mellick. In 1928 a teacher's cottage was built, the teacher paid \$7.00 a month rent for the cottage.

There were quite a few children attending the school, so in 1929 they had to build another school to accommodate all of them. At times there were 60 pupils attending the two schools with grades 1 to 11 being taught.

In 1930 a barn was built in the school yard as during the winters many of the students drove a horse and cutter. Some had as many as 4 miles to travel to school.

In 1945 an addition was built onto the newer school and the older building was sold.

The school was closed in Sept. of 1958 and all the pupils were bused into Calmar.

Today the school serves as a community centre. The community takes a keen interest in it and have built an extension onto it. In 1978 a gas furnace was installed in it.



The Wilton Park S.D. # 508, Sept. 13, 1926. Seated front row, L. to R. — (teacher) Mr. Drader; Mary Popowich (Nazaranko); in front Bessie Fedan (Mellick); Alex Workun; Albert Kozial (standing).

L. to R. — front standing row — Margaret Mollison (Ekstrom); Bessie Popowich (Turta); Helen Mollison (Burgett); Mary Kuta (Polok); Anne Poppwich (Chrunyk); Walter Workun; Mr. Drader (seated); John Wurban, right of teacher. L. to R. — back row — Elsie Chimera (Adamic); Tena Fedan (Meditsky); Kate Kozial (Mankow); Victoria Kozial (Shymansky); Joe Kozial; Jim Mollison; Frank Kozial; Fred Mollison; Mike Wurban; Harry Chimera; Fred Ryby; William Dobko.



Wilton Park School with Mrs. Helen Lechelt teacher. Back row — Steffie Pawlick, Lorri Pawlick, Judy Mollison, Elizabeth Pawlick, Patricia Wurban, Diana Kozial, Shirley Pyrch, Shirley Kozial, Alexis Bogus, 2nd row — Leon Pawlick, Lorraine Kozial, Linda Mollison, Duane Bogus, Teacher, Arthur Fedor, Joan Pawlick, Connie Halwa, Billy Mollison, Front row — Ron Kozial, Patsy Babiak, Brian Lechelt, Garry Kozial, Stuart Lechelt and Karen Halwa. Taken about 1956.

THE DOBKO FAMILY

by the family

Between 1895 and 1897 our parents, Kost and Annie Dobko learned of opportunities in Canada from publications by Dr. Oleskow, an agricultural scientist who had visited Canada. Toward the end of April 1897, Kost and Annie, accompanied by their two sons, Peter and John, left their home in the village of Vitleyn, Poland, for Canada. They travelled across Europe by train to the Port of Antwerp, Belgium. They departed for Canada on April 30th, 1897,



Kost and Annie Dobko, 1918.

aboard a ship of the Cunard Line. After landing in Quebec City, they journeyed across Canada via rail, finally arriving at the Edmonton Strathcona station on May 30th, 1897.

At this point in time, his savings completely exhausted except for \$5.00, Kost left his family with the John Hannas' in the Sprucedale district and sought employment. He was fortunate to obtain work as a railway section labourer for a \$1.00 a day. Late in the fall of the same year he filed on the N.W. 30-50-25 W4th homestead. He was the fifth applicant to file on that quarter, as the previous applicants became discouraged due to the low topography and dense bush cover.

The family did reasonably well on their homestead despite some setbacks. One of these occurred in the fall of 1900, when Kost fractured his back and leg in a threshing accident. He never fully recovered from this mishap and as a result he walked with a limp for the rest of his days.

The land was productive, as evidenced by the 45 bags of wheat harvested in 1898. Of this harvest, 30 bags were sold for .50¢ a bushel. Game was also quite plentiful and stewed rabbit made a welcome change in diet.

Five more children were born between 1898 and 1910, a girl Nancy, and 5 boys, Metro, Bill, Fred, Alex, and Mike who died in infancy.

The first of the children to leave home was Nancy who married Dan Wurban, son of Mike and Martha Wurban of Calmar, on January 30th, 1916.

Two weeks later Peter, the eldest son, married Katie, daughter of Mike and Annie Krupa of the Whitemud district and the following spring they moved to a homestead south of Thorsby.

In 1918, Kost Dobko sold the homestead in the Sprucedale district to Gottlieb Wedman. He then bought section 24-50-28-W4th and the NW 19-50-27-W4th, 10 miles northwest of Calmar, in the Wilton Park district. The new homestead was purchased from Vit Riley, a railroad contractor who had 60 head of mules grazing on the land at the time.

The Wilton Park district at that time was known as "Hell's Corner". It was an isolated retreat because of creeks and the North Saskatchewan River. W. Rapp, an American, gave the area this name. Sometime in the 1880's, in an extremely dry year, with the North Saskatchewan flowing at just a trickle, he visited the area. He reported that many big game animals, including remnants of the vast herds of buffalo that once roamed the plains, were converging on the nearly dry river for water. These occurrences prompted him



Kost Dobko standing by tractor. Sitting on tractor, Alex Dobko. On the wagon, Metro Dobko.



Metro and Anne Dobko, 1940. L. to R. — Mildred and Evelyn, Elizabeth, Mrs. Dobko, Mr. Dobko holding Nestor, Mike Dobko. Front row — Sergius and Edward

to give the area the strange name of "Hell's Corner".

In 1919, Kost bought his first tractor and threshing machine. The following year he purchased the first family car, a McLaughlin Buick. Along with his son Metro, Kost brought the vehicle home from Edmonton without ever having driven a car before.

In 1922 John, the second son, married Jennie Kolmatyski of Mundare and they moved to the S½ of 13-50-28-W4th in 1924. That same year Kost purchased a second threshing outfit, a 15-30 tractor and a 28"-46" Internatinal Co. Separator.

In 1925 Metro married Annie, daughter of William and Catherine Turchyn of Calmar. The following year he moved to the S.W. 19-50-27-W4th which he had purchased from Fred Popowich in 1925.

In 1927 the Dobko family, along with some of their neighbors, built the Russo-Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Ascension. At the present time, over 50 years later, Kost Dobko's descendants still worship at that church.

In 1928 William, the fourth son, married Annie Sikora of Thorsby. Two years later William moved to the N.E. 18-50-27-W4th, 1 and ½ miles from the home place.

Fred, the fifth son, married Annie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Proc of Genesee in 1933. They settled on the N.E. 24-50-28-W4th of the home place.

The youngest son, Alex married Julie Pruchun of Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1935 and they farmed on the home place.

Kost Dobko passed away on February 7, 1938 at the age of 80. His wife Annie died on June 14, 1939.

Peter Dobko later moved back to the Wilton Park district where he farmed until a few years before his death in 1963. He was predeceased by his wife Katie in 1960. The Peter Dobko's raised 2 sons and 3 daughters. Williams farms in the Fruitland district with his 2 sons Ken and Allan. Steve farms on the homeplace with his 5 sons and 1 daughter.

John Dobko farmed in the Fruitland district until 1949. The following year he moved to Creston, British Columbia and subsequently moved to Portland, Oregon. John passed away in 1965 while visiting his brother William. John and Jennie had a family of 1 son and 2 daughters.

Metro and wife Annie continued to farm the land they originally purchased, until 1966, when they retired to Edmonton. They raised a family of 7, 4 sons and 3 daughters. Their youngest son Nestor, is presently living on the home place and farming in the district. He and his wife Eleanor have 2 sons and 2 daughters. The eldest son Mike owned and managed a garage and a bulk agency in Calmar until 1973. Two other sons, Edward and Serge, both U. of A. graduates, reside in Edmonton. Daughters, Elizabeth and Evelyn reside in Edmonton and daughter Mildred resides in Grande Prairie. They now have 20 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. On February 16, 1975, Metro and Annie observed their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary.

William Dobko and his wife Annie retired to Calmar in 1969, when they sold their farm operation to Nestor and Edward Dobko. They raised a family of 1 son and 3 daughters. On February 18, 1978, William and Annie also celebrated their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Fred Dobko farmed in the district until 1947 when he moved to Grande Prairie. He retired in 1962 and moved to Edmonton where he lived until his passing in 1971. Fred and Annie raised a family of 2 sons and 1 daughter.

Alex felt the urge to move and sold his half section of land to John Hancar in 1943. He settled in Vancouver, B.C. where he worked as a logger until his retirement several years ago. Alex raised a family of 1 son and 3 daughters.

Nancy Wurban passed away in 1958; Her husband retired to Thorsby and lived there until his death in 1973. The Wurbans raised a family of ten.

On July 22nd and 23rd, 1972, a reunion of the Dobko families was held at the Wilton Park Community Centre, to commemorate the arrival in Canada of Kost and Annie Dobko, 75 years ago. More than 150 descendants from across Canada came to celebrate the occasion.

THE DOBKO FAMILY

by William Dobko

My grandfather, Kost Dobko, and grandmother, Annie Dobko, came to Canada in 1897 and settled in the Sprucedale area. My father Peter, was 4 years old at that time. In 1918 Kost Dobko sold the homestead in the Sprucedale district and bought land in the Wilton Park school district, and the family moved there. The new homestead was purchased from Vit Riley, a railroad contractor. He had 60 mules on the land. He used the mules as draft animals for railway construction.

As the years went by Grandfather had a number of attacks of pneumonia. He passed away on February 7, 1938 at the age of 80. He was buried in the church cemetery with Rev. A. Kokolsky officiating at the service. Rev. Kokolsky celebrated his 100th birthday on August 29, 1978. Grandmother had been bothered with asthma for many years and she passed away on June 14, 1939.

My father, Peter, grew up in the Sprucedale area west of Nisku. He married Katie Krupa in 1916 and that spring they moved to a homestead southwest of Thorsby. In 1917 I (William Dobko) was born.

A few years after I was born, my father moved into the Wilton Park area. I attended school at Wilton Park. I farmed with my dad until 1945, when I married Emily Yuzel of Wilton Park. My wife also attended the Wilton Park School. Today the Wilton Park School is used as a community centre.

My wife and I settled in the Fruitland district. In 1946 a son Kenneth was born. I farmed with horses and with the help of Dad's tractor. In June 1946 I purchased my first vehicle (a 1929 Chev) for \$175.00. In 1948 I purchased a used 102 Massey Harris tractor. Things were looking up as my wife was able to get her first washing machine in the fall of 1948 (mail order from Eaton's). About the same time we were able to get something better to drive - a 1934 Chev car. We were in mixed farming like most other families in the district. In 1950 I purchased my first new one-ton truck from John Bilar of Thorsby. Cutting grain with a binder was becoming quite a chore so in 1952 I purchased a pull-type combine. In order to go into bigger machinery I had to purchase more land. So as time went on we acquired more land and better machinery.

In 1955 a son Allan was born. Kenneth was already in school and quite happy to have a baby brother. They both attended school at Thorsby, graduating there. Kenneth attended N.A.I.T. for 2 years and in 1969 married Joyce Horutko of Thorsby. They decided to farm about a mile from the home place. In 1973 a daughter Crystal was born to Ken and Joyce.

Allan also attended N.A.I.T. and then worked out for a few years. In 1977 he married Debbie Landy of Nelson, B.C. He now is farming with Ken and me.

My wife and I have a lot to be thankful for. This year (1978) isn't the best, but things will work out.



Pete and Kate Dobko, 1942.



William and Emily Dobko, 1945.



William Dobko's one-man outfit, operating tractor from a binder,

JOHN AND MARY FEDAN

by daughter Bessie Mellick

My father and mother, John and Mary Fedan and their 3 year old daughter Katie, arrived at Leduc, Alberta in June 1909 from Austria. One of their old country neighbors who immigrated a few years earlier and was settled in the Glidehurst district met them there, and took them to his home where they stayed just long enough to find some sort of a house to live in. Dad worked at anything he could, to earn some money. It was hard for him to do manual labor as he was a tailor by trade.

Sister Anne was born one month later on July 30, 1909. A year or so later he filed on a homestead, NW 10-50-27 W4, north west of Calmar and built a cabin and cow shed for by then they had a cow, some chickens and a team of horses. We moved in before winter set in. Next spring they discovered that, except for the ground the cabin and barn were standing on, the rest of the farm was a lake of water. There was no dry land to even plant a garden. Up to a few years ago, that was considered the poorest and most hopeless piece of land in the country. John Kushinsky lives there now.

Dad and Mom cut willow posts which Dad hauled to Leduc to sell, and buy the bare necessities needed for survival. Then again they scrimped and saved enough money to make a small down payment on 80 acres west ½ of SE 17-49-26 W4, which they bought from Joe Burns ½ mile east of Wilton Park School.

They built a bigger log house and moved in, leaving the homestead behind. They also had to clear land by hand and build other necessary buildings and fences. They still cut and sold willow posts and worked at odd jobs to make a living. Three more daughter's were born to them in the coming years, Mary, May 8, 1912, Tina, April 14, 1913 and Bessie, August 10, 1916.

Dad passed away in November 1918 with the flu. leaving mother and 5 girls (ranging in age from 2 years to 10 years) alone. There was no welfare, mothers allowance or other hand outs that are so freely given out today.

Mother married Joe Bogus, and of this union a son, Steve, was born. They bought another 1/4 section of land from the Hudson Bay Co. across the road, which Steve inherited after his parents death and is farming it still.

Steve's father died May 28, 1951, his mother April 5, 1958, his sister Mary, June 1923 and sister Katie May, 1961.

Steve married Stella Hanes in August 1942 and they have 3 children; Alexis, Duane and Beverly. Katie married Nick Popowick in 1922 and lived just north of Wilton Park School. They had 3 children; Meron, Mary and Andy. Both parents are now deceased. Anne married Pete Melick in 1926, and they have 3 children; Christene Kuzio, Millie Huclak (twins) and Walter. They are now retired in Leduc.

Tina married Mike Meditsky in 1934. They had 2 children, Georgina and Ted, who live in Sedgewick. Mike was killed in a plane crash in November 1960. Bessie married Mike Mellick on July 28, 1935 and had 3 children

Shelby June Mellick was born June 10, 1936, and married Melvin Moeller of Genesee October 15, 1955. They have 1 son Michael D. born on September 22, 1967. Rodney Mellick was born in 1940 and passed away Feb. 14, 1943, aged 3 years. Sherridan Ann Mellick was born on August 9, 1944. She married Roger Bruce of Bawlf on October 15, 1966. They have a son Collin R. born on Dec. 3, 1977.

JOHN HALWA FAMILY

by Aldona Harrish

John Halwa was 14 years of age when he came to Canada from Poland with his parents Frank and Rosalie (Sarnecki) Halwa, sister Kate, and three brothers Mike, Alex, and Joe. Later, two sisters were born in Canada - Mary Haley and Annie Sheptycki.

The Frank Halwa family first settled in the Whitemud area and soon moved to their permanent home place in the Halicz district, where the Halicz School was built in 1906. The Glidehurst Post Office was also on his farm.

John worked on the farm with his father until he was old enough to find work. He went to work on the railroad and as soon as he had saved enough money, he bought a quarter of land at Glidehurst near the river. There were 18 acres of cleared land, a two-room house, a barn, and a granary on it. He lived there alone until he met and married Anna Sych in 1911.

John and Anna cleared more land, built a chicken coop and a machine shed. Like all the other farmers, he hauled his wheat to Leduc with horses. They had to haul their cattle, pigs, chickens, eggs and vegetables to Edmonton to sell. It was on this farm where their first four children were born.

Caroline, born in June 1912, attended Halicz School. In 1931 she married John Chimera and they settled on a farm a few miles northwest of Calmar. They raised a family of four children. Wasylia Sarnecki and Lavinia Tennant are living in the city of Edmonton. Cecil married Angeline Kushinski and is farming on the quarter west of theirs. Darwyne is at present employed in Calgary. Caroline is living alone on the farm since John's death in 1975.

Frank, their first son, was born in 1914. He married Jennie Krukowsky and is still farming in the Progress district. Their family consists of four children. Reuben and Alice (Bjorgum) are farming in the Fruitland area. Alice is teaching in Thorsby Elementary School, while Reuben commutes to the city where he is employed. Zenia married Roy Liebman and they are living in California. Jane is teaching school in Thorsby and is married to David



The John Halwa family in 1958. L. to R. — back row — Frank, Henry, Adolph. Middle - Kay, Adelaide, Stella, Wanda and Caroline, Front — Louise, Anna, John and Aldona.

Hanas. Randy is attending Thorsby High School, completing Grade 12. Frank and Jennie have two grandchildren.

In 1916, Stella Halwa was born. She started school at Halicz and finished at Wilton Park. She was married in 1935 to Fred Sereda and first settled at Riverford and then moved to Progress district where they are still living. Their daughter Valoria is married to Allan Sandstrom. They are farming at Riverford on a farm formerly owned by Percy Sandstrom. Their son Dennis, married Brenda Kelley and is also farming at Fruitland. Rosalie was in the nursing profession for many years and is now married to Ernie Stobbe, living at Athabasca. Wendy is teaching at St. Albert. Wayne is a veterinarian in Leduc. He is married to Barbara Green of Duncan, B.C. Brent is finishing his education at the University of Alberta.

In 1917, Halwas had another daughter named Kate. She also attended school at Halicz and Wilton Park. Kate and Fred Mollison were married in 1940 but were later divorced. Kate then married Edward Podgurny. They farmed just northeast of Calmar until his passing in 1968. She has four children. Rod is practising law in Wisconsin, Bruce is in Cranbrook, B.C., Gail married Bill Pshyk and lives in the city, and Marlene is employed in Edmonton.

In 1919, John decided to look for better farmland. He sold and bought another quarter about six miles away. He hired help and cleared 80 acres and built more buildings. In the fall of the same year Wanda was born. She started school at Halicz and moved to Wilton Park. She is married to Albin Markstedt and they make their home in Buford. They have two daughters. Alda married Roger Gunsch and they are

farming near Thorsby. JoAnne and her husband Dan Denman make their home in Leduc. Albin and Wanda have four grandchildren.

Adolph Halwa was born in 1921. He received most of his education at Wilton Park. He married Rosemarie Sturko in 1948 and took up farming on his father's farm after his retirement. They have two daughters. Connie teaches school at Warburg, while Karen and her husband, Russell Workun, and

daughter Lisa are living in Edmonton.

In 1924, Aldona was born. She spent 11 years at Wilton Park School and 1 year at Leduc, as at that time Grade 12 was not taught in country schools. She furthered her education at McTavish Business College and worked in Edmonton for several years. She married Paul Harrish and moved to Buford where they are making their home. Aldona and Paul have a family of four boys and three girls; Sidney, Dwayne, Calvin, Clifford, Donna, June, and Bonnie.

Henry was born in 1925 and attended Wilton Park School. He married Doreen Pasut but divorced shortly after. In 1964 he married Marion Sund and they have one daughter, Laurel. They are making their

home in the city.

Louise was born in 1927. She went to Wilton Park School then completed her schooling in Edmonton. She was married to Dave Clark and they have four children. Garrell, Roxanne, and Terri Lynne are employed in Edmonton, and Holly Ann is in high school. Louise taught school at Calmar for many years but this year (1978) she started teaching in Leduc.

Halwa's youngest daughter, Adelaide, was born in 1929. She married Arthur Wood and they are making their home in Sherwood Park. Their family consists of



Family reunion in 1978. L. to R.— Caroline Chimera, Frank Halwa, Stella Sereda, Kay Podgurny, Wanda Markstedt, Anna Halwa, Adolph Halwa, Aldona Harrish, Henry Halwa, Louise Clark, and Adelaide Wood.

three boys and two girls. Dale married Arlene Coates and they are living in Edmonton. Linda is married to Brian Kerr and their home is in Leduc. Gaylene is attending university in Edmonton. Dean and Darrell are both employed in Edmonton. Adelaide and Arthur also have three grandchildren.

In the spring of 1929, John and Anna sold their farm at Glidehurst to Alex Halwa and bought two quarters of land in the Wilton Park district from Mrs. Nettie Robinson. This land, the south half of 12-50-28-W4, was homesteaded by Thomas Robinson in 1898. Halwas farmed here until John's retirement. In 1952, John and Anna moved to Edmonton and left the farming to their son Adolph. John passed away in 1960. Anna resided in their house until 1973. That year, she moved to the Kiwanis Lodge for Senior Citizens, where she still resides.

THE HANCAR FAMILY

In 1927, John Hancar left Czechoslovakia and came to Canada to seek his fortune. He worked at grubbing and clearing land for 75¢ a day in the Leduc-Calmar area. Then John went to British Columbia to work at a power plant for 50¢ per hour. He later returned to the Warburg district, purchased his own land, and began to clear it, as it was solid bush.

In 1937, John sent for his wife and 4 children (Anne, John, Vera and Marie). In 1943, they purchased land in the Wilton Park district. The roads were low grade. John and the neighbors would work all day to clear the road of snow in winter, to be able to go to Calmar the following day for groceries. When they got up in the morning, they would find it had drifted in again. In summer, if they were away from home, at the first sign of rain they returned, as there was no gravel on the roads.



Class of 1945, WILTON PARK
Front row — Cecil Chimera, Lawrence Hook, Vera Hancar, Olga
Pawlyk, Teacher: Mike Manchak.
Second row — Bernice Demuynck, Helen Hancar, Alex Hook, Bessie

Dobko, Evelyn Dobko.
Third row — Helen Kuta, Bob Demuynck, Bill Popowich, Walter
Melick, Ann Hancar, Peter Popowich.

John has 6 children, all married, 16 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Anne married Peter Thomas, John married Norma Enghoj, Vera married John Kushinski and Mike married Cheryl Bostrom. They are all farming in the Wilton Park and Calmar areas. Marie married Herb Schnelle and they live in Edmonton. Helen married Jim Quesnelle and they reside in Surrey, B.C. where Helen is a school teacher.

Today John Sr. is retired and lives in Calmar.

THE JOHN KUTA STORY

by Mary Polok

I was born in Austria on December 21, 1894 and came to Leduc, Alberta with my mother and stepfather in 1902. Shortly after our arrival we filed on a homestead, the location being SE 4-50-27 W4. We lived there until 1911 when we sold it and bought the NW 9-50-27 W4 where I still live.

I cleared the land by hand as there were no brush cutters in those days and ploughed it with a walking plough. The house and other buildings were built of logs. The cracks in the walls were filled with either moss or mud to keep the wind and cold out. During those early years we hauled willow posts to Leduc to make some money to buy much needed clothing and food.

On January 31, 1916, I married Joyce Bormilo who came to Canada from Poland. Orphaned at the age of 5, Joyce was brought to Canada by her grandmother to live with relatives on a farm southwest of Thorsby. She worked at several places until about a year before our marriage when she went to work in Leduc.

It was very cold the day we were married. The bridal party started out for church early in the morning by sleigh. The horses had a hard long trip as the snow was deep and the church was located 4 miles west of Nisku. We upset twice because of the snow drifts. We rested the horses at a farmer's place across the road from the church and had some lunch. After the ceremony, we started the long trip home arriving about 7 p.m., both cold and tired.

In late 1918, the flu epidemic broke out. I came down with it as did almost everyone else in the community. It seemed I had a mild attack but got out of bed too soon and had a relapse. I spent 6 weeks in bed. My wife and daughter Mary, who was only a few weeks old, did not contract the flu. It seemed nearly every family in the district lost a loved one in the epidemic, some even more than one.

The following year we had a heavy winter. We lost a lot of cattle due to lack of feed. From necessity, we even used straw several years old as feed for the animals. It was May before the snow melted.

Any cattle that we had for market were chased on horseback or on foot to Leduc where they were sold. Hogs were also hauled in sleighs or wagons to Leduc. If the weather was hot we took the hogs to the market at night when it was cooler, as the heat would have been fatal to the animals.

Grain was also hauled to Leduc. It was not unusual to see a line of 20 or more wagons on the way to the elevator. What a line-up at the elevator when loads of grain started to come from every direction! When the railroad came through in 1929 we took our grain to Buford which is only about 5 miles away.

In those early years, threshing machines were few and far between, so grain was hauled into round stacks with usually about 6 or 7 racks of bundles to each. That way it didn't matter if it snowed or rained, for the grain was dry. We threshed as late as Christmas sometimes.

In our area, Alex Earl owned the first threshing machine which was run by a steam engine. I worked on that outfit until the owner decided to sell out and move away. I had to be up at 4 a.m. to fire the engine so that we could have enough steam to start working at 7 a.m. I also worked in sawmills, coal mines or at any job I could find in the winter to supplement my income.

Later, when I had all my land nearly cleared and had bought machinery to work it with, I never worked away from home except during the Second World War when help was scarce.

When horses were still being used for work and transportation during the winter, I was kept busy shoeing both my own horses and those of my neighbors.

We did not have a veterinarian in those days so we learned from our own experience. I helped many farmers with their sick animals. I was 77 years old when I worked on the last case.

It was in the late 1920's when the church was built. Before that time, we had services in the local school and in private homes.

My wife and I had 9 children, all of whom received their education at the Wilton Park School. They walked 1 ½ miles to school and their teachers had several grades in the 2 school rooms and anywhere from 20 to 40 pupils each. There were no strikes in those days either.

For entertainment, dances were held in the local school. The annual Christmas concert was something to look forward to with both children and adults participating. In the summer ball games and picnics were always fun.

Radios were quite common around 1937. Ours was operated by 3 types of batteries: an "A" battery that you took into town to recharge every 4 weeks or so, depending on how much you used your radio, and 3 "B" batteries and 1 "C". The ladies had their soap operas even then and of course I never missed Foster Hewitt and his "Hockey Night in Canada" on Saturday night.

My wife and I celebrated our golden wedding anniversary in 1966. She passed away in February in 1968. I make my home with my second son Nick who farms the home place raising mainly hogs and grain. I have fairly good health and do my own cooking, one

job I don't care for. The other children live quite near in the surrounding area. Mary is married to John Polok and lives near Pigeon Lake. They have 5 children. William, after his discharge from the Canadian Army, married Millie Kuzio and farms in the Sunnybrook district. They have 2 children. Eva is Mrs. Pyrch and they farm east of Thorsby. They have 3 children. Nick lives on the home place and is single. Catherine married Fred Pyrcz and lived on a farm north of Thorsby for a few years. They live in town now and have 4 children. One daughter passed away at 18 years of age. Helen, who lives in Calgary, is Mrs. Jim Kendrick and has 2 children. Vivian and her husband Eugene Powlik also live in the Thorsby district. They do not have a family. Elsie, Mrs. Mark Mryglod, lives in the Calmar district and has 3 children. Alex married Jeanette Westlund and also lives on the home place. They have 3 children.

I have 22 grandchildren and 24 greatgrandchildren. I have seen tremendous changes in my lifetime. I often wonder if the younger generation really appreciate all their modern conveniences such as good roads, schools, hospitals and fast cars.

MR. AND MRS. OLAF SANDSTROM

by daughter Julia Engberg

My father Olaf and mother (Christine) arrived at Leduc in the spring of 1899 with their 9 children. They came on what was called an immigration train from North Dakota with some household goods, cattle and horses. The Falk and Pederson families came too.

They drove 16 miles by horse and wagon to his homestead northwest of Calmar. At that time there were only trails, so they zig-zagged through the bush and tried to avoid the sloughs, and there were plenty them.

My father put up a make-shift home of logs and sod and we lived in that for about a year. Then he bought the adjoining quarter and built quite a large house, all of logs.

He was interested in dairying so always had from 8 to 10 cows to milk and of course that was done by hand at that time. There were 5 of us girls and we had to help



Sandstrom Family. L. to R. — Grandma and Grandpa, Julia, Clara, Agnes, Alma, Percy and Ellen with Leslie.

out with the milking before going to school. That meant a lot of churning and butter making for our mother. But father was very good to help when it came to printing the butter. He was the one who worked the butter on a special table and made the 1 lb. prints. All of us took turns wrapping the prints. He had special customers in Leduc and drove there every week, going from door to door to dispose of his butter.

One of the hi-lights in his life was music. He was instrumental in forming a choir. As we were all Scandinavians and mostly Swedish, our songs were all sung in Swedish. We met once a week for practise. I remember his tuning fork that he used to start them all off on the right note. What I, and all of the family know

in music, is credited to his teachings.

The children walked about 3 miles to Rose Hill School and had to cross a creek. A neighbor placed a log across the creek to walk across on. Later Mr. Falk and father built a walking bridge over the creek which was the Conjuring Creek. Our farm was 2 miles west and 4 miles north of Calmar.



Sandstrom family. Taken about 1922. L. to R. — Victor Sandstrom, Julia, Percy, Agnes, Alvin, parents Olaf and Christine, Clara, Alma and Fllen.

The childrens' names were Annie, Axel, Emil, Victor, Alvin, Ellen, Alma, Julia (myself), and Clara. Two more, Percy and Agnes were born in Alberta.

As they grew older they scattered. Annieleft home to work in Calgary, then Cranbrook, B.C. where she became ill and died in 1903.

Axel remained a bachelor and later owned a corner lot at Mission Beach. He used to report the Mission Beach news for the local paper. He died in 1961, in his cottage at the lake.

Emil married Ellen Westlund of Calmar. They farmed next to the Sandstrom farm and 4 children were born to them. They later moved to Calgary where Emil died in 1971.

Victor also remained a bachelor and took up the well-drilling trade which he followed for about 10 years. He lived in Thorsby and sold his well drilling rig to Bill Burgess when he quit drilling. His last house in Thorsby was bought by D. Smith to become the retirement home of his mother, Mrs. Laura Smith. Victor passed away in 1953.

Alvin, also a bachelor, was employed by Edmonton Motors for several years, until his retirement into Thorsby. He lived next to his brother Victor in Thorsby. He passed away in 1959.

Ellen married Alfred Lindberg, a business man in Leduc. They had a son Leslie who married Mae Eklund of Glen Park. They now live in Calgary. Ellen died in 1937.

Alma married Herb Ohrn and they made their home in Ohrnsville which was Highway 39 at Weed Creek on the Blind Line. She died in 1965.

I married Albert Engberg of Calmar and we made our home on the Engberg farm just east of Calmar. We were married in 1921 and moved onto his father's farm and managed it. We had 4 children: Dennis, Lila, Kenneth and Bob.

My sister Clara married Axel Modin in 1931 and they farmed at Bruce, Alberta, then sold and bought a home in Edmonton. They had no children, and she passed away in 1966.

Agnes became a school teacher and took her normal school training in Camrose. It was during the flu epidemic in 1918 and the school had to be closed. She was unable to finish that year and studied by correspondence to obtain her certificate. She married Eric Dixon.

Percy married Gladys Faulkner of Conjuring Creek in 1931. They lived on his parent's farm until a few years ago and are now retired and living in Leduc. They have 2 children; Audrey married Bob Pederson and lives in Leduc, Allen took over the Sandstrom farm when his father retired. He is married to Valoria Sereda of the Thorsby area and they have 2 daughters Rita and Lori.

THE FAMILY OF ALBERT AND JULIA ENGBERG

Our oldest son Dennis married Peggy Price of Onanole near Erickson, Manitoba. They live on NE 36-49-1-W5 and also have the quarter south of it next to highway 39 near Weed Creek. They carry on a mixed farming operation.

Their 3 children are Bertha, Brenda and Gordon. Bertha works in the University Hospital in Edmonton as a lab technician and is married to Ken Sinclair who is employed with Alberta Government Telephones.

Brenda is in her last year of Pharmacy at the University of Alberta. She and Phil Cook were



The Engberg family in 1976. L. to R. — Brenda, Gordon, Mother (Peggy and Dennis) Father and Bertha.



Miss Brenda Engberg 1975 graduate of Thorsby High School with the honors she won. For highest standing in grade 12 she received The Stanley Gitzel Math Award. Leduc Local #63 A.T.A. award, the Edythe Rolston Memorial Award, the County of Leduc Scholarship and the Alberta Hotelmens' Scholarship.

married in July 1978 and live in Edmonton. He is employed with the Provincial Govt.

Gordon graduated from Thorsby High School and lives at home with his parents. Presently he is employed with Nabor's Drilling Co.

Lila our oldest daughter graduated with a degree in Home Economics and then went to Ithaca in New York state and studied for her doctorate. She then went overseas and spent 5 years in Malawi. After that she was head of the Home Ec. Dept. of the University in Accra, Ghana for 5 years. Dr. Engberg is now back in Canada and working for the University of Guelph, Ontario. She never married.

Kenneth Engberg married Jean Hammond and they have 2 daughters, Joyce and Mary-Lynn. They live in Calgary. Bob, our youngest, married Betty Bednarsky of Calmar and has a family of 4, Douglas, David, Shirley and Sandra. He bought the Engberg farm after his father's death in 1967 and they make their home on it.

I live on it too. It has been my home ever since we moved onto it in 1921, 57 years ago. I am 83 years old and have many hobbies to occupy the time. I make quilts and crochet and have many interests.

THE POPOWICH FAMILY

submitted by Mary Nazarenko

Fred Popowich was born in Jaroslaw, Poland, in 1886 where his father Steve farmed and made a meagre living for his family. As a very young man, Fred worked away from home as far as Berlin to make some money. By 1910, he managed to buy a ticket and ventured out to the new land. It was a great inspiration to see the Statue of Liberty after a tedious trip by ship across the ocean.

His first job in Canada was in the coal mines of Canmore, and Nordegg, Alberta. He then worked on the railroad for the C.P.R. in Strathcona (South Edmonton) and also on the construction of the High

Level bridge which was completed in June, 1913.

In 1913, Fred bought a C.P.R. quarter section (SW 19-50-27 W4) in the Wilton Park District, and went working as a farm hand for Michael Krupa in the Whitemud District, southwest of Edmonton. There he met Tina Krupa.

Tina was born on March 4, 1897, to Michael and Anna Krupa. Tina's mother passed away when Tina was twelve and she looked after her younger sisters, Katie (Dobko), Mary (Magark), Nellie (Roskey), and her brother John Krupa until she got married.

On Feb. 7, 1914, Tina married Fred Popowich and they settled with the other early pioneers in the Wilton Park District on the C.P.R. land Fred had already purchased. Here they lived in a little hand-hewn log cabin. Those were the years when the girls got a dowry consisting of two cows and a horse or two when they got married.

The farms were not like the farms of today but all bush (poplar and spruce trees) and no fences. Roads were mostly trails. Farming was very primitive. Grubbing (clearing the land) was done daily by Fred and Tina using an axe and pick. Plowing was done by a one-furrow walking plough. The wheat was taken on horseback and later by team and wagon to Leduc to be milled into flour and porridge. Many times, when Fred went as far as 7 miles to the neighbors on foot for milk and flour, he would encounter wolves and bears on his way home. It was nothing unusual for the bears to come to the yard and carry away a pig.

During the 1914-1918 war, people died like flies, from the flu. It was then that Fred and Tina lost their first son as an infant. The burial was at Nisku, St. Mary's Russo Greek Orthodox Church cemetery, which was about 18 miles away. Transportation was by sleigh and wagon or horse and wagon. People were quite religious in those years and beautiful ikons (pictures) of the Last Supper and others were in every home in the area. It was in 1927, the Russo Greek Orthodox Church of Ascension was built and the minister had to come all the way from Edmonton.

The school system was a one-room unit from Grades 1 to 8, and later to Grade 9. School started with the Lord's Prayer and then the 3 R's - reading, writing and arithmetic. Teachers had Grade 11 education plus normal school training, or a lot just had Grade 11.

In 1925, Fred bought a quarter section immediately west of Wilton Park school (Community Centre) from the English family and moved his family by wagon into a two-storey log house. Again he had to clear the land as there were only a few acres under cultivation. This land is now owned by Bill Popowich of Los Angeles.

In 1927, Fred bought the quarter immediately to the south, (NE 7-50-27 W4, Milo Roger's homestead) from Tom Hamilton. The family moved to this much larger four bedroom, two storey home. The kitchen was completely finished but Tina had to finish the other rooms upstairs. She used cardboard boxes and



The Popowich Family, 1947.
Front row — Fred Popowich, Mary Nazarenko, Bill Popowich, Rose
Evans, Tena Popowich.
Back row — Anne Chrunyk, Eva Popowich, Steve Popowich, Peter
Popowich, Nell McIntyre, Bessie Turta.

wallpaper, or newspaper and the Eatons catalogue which was newspaper size. There were only laths on the studdings. The living room downstairs had a large pot-bellied stove which warmed the two rooms downstairs with only heat from the stove pipe for the upstairs bedrooms. The kitchen was the centre of a lot of Wilton Park gatherings with music provided by the violin and mouth-organ. Also during the hungry '30's many a stranger shared a meal or two and a night's lodging at the Popowich home.

It was the late '30's when Fred bought the 80 acres (E-SE-17-50 W4) which also had to be cleared, as only a few acres in the centre were cleared. It was good pasture land for a few years. The above two properties

are now owned by Peter Popowich.

In Feb. 1946, the old home burned to the ground at noon. The wood frame house was levelled within half an hour and the family, with the help of school children, managed to save a little furniture from the downstairs - a bed, table, chairs and stove. But the loss was still great. The family lived in a granary till the house as it stands today, was built in 1947.

During the late '40's and early '50's Fred, Steve, Pete, and Bill did some custom threshing. The grain was all in stooks and usually they had six hayracks and men (one or two field-pitchers and a spike pitcher) plus a couple of wagons to receive the grain and machine mechanics. A group of 14 men was the average threshing crew.

Another accomplishment during those hard years by Fred and Tina, was when he sent for his elder brother Egnat and brother Nick to come from Jaroslaw to Canada. His nephews, Steve Popowich (now of Surrey, B.C.), John Fedan (now of Vancouver) and John Mokrey, were all brought to Canada with Fred's help.

Fred and Tina raised a family of nine children: Bessie (Turta) of Edmonton, Anne (Chrunyk), Mary



Threshing, 1951.
L. to R. — Fred Popowich, Peter Popowich, Steve Popowich on machine.

(Nazarenko) of Leduc, Eve Popowich of Vancouver, Steve Popowich, Nell (McIntyre) of Calgary, Rose (Evans) of Fountain Valley, Peter Popowich of Edmonton, and Bill Popowich of Los Angeles.

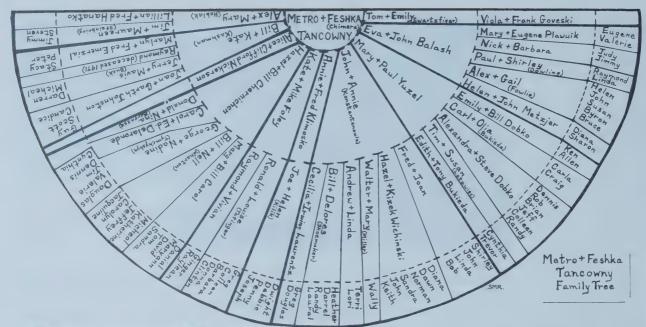
Fred and Tina resided in the Wilton Park district till their retirement in 1953, to Edmonton.

METRO AND FESHKA TANCOWNY

submitted by Hazel Chernichen

In May, 1898 Metro and Feshka with their two children, Tom and Eva immigrated to Canada from Lazu, Austria. They arrived in the Glidehurst area from Halifax, where they filed on a homestead. Because Metro did not have the money to buy farm equipment he went to work on the railway at Trail, B.C. leaving Feshka alone with their two children, coming back in the spring to clear and work the land. They cleared approximately five acres a year.

In 1901 Metro's brother Paul and his wife Nettie





Tancowney Family and Friends, 1916.

with their three children, John, Feshka, and Mary immigrated to Canada. They lived with Metro and Feshka until they found their own homestead in the Calmar area.

Metro worked on the railway in the winters until he had cleared enough land during the summers and bought needed equipment to make their own living on the homestead.

In 1912 Metro purchased more land in the Wilton Park area. Moving his family (Tom born in 1895, Eva born 1898, Mary born 1901, John born 1902, Annie born 1904, Kate born 1906, Hazel born 1908, and Alice born in 1910) after the house was completed. Bill was born in 1913 and Alex in 1915.

With only a few acres to farm, advancement was very slow and income very small, therefore they depended on the land for food. They kept vegetables in root cellars and pork was salted and stored in a barrel. Wheat was ground for flour, barley and wheat were roasted for coffee. Soap was made from beef fat and lye. Another type of lye was made by pouring water over wood ashes then strained and this lye was used for washing clothes and floors. Prairie chicken, rabbit stew and salted fish were common dishes.

Their harvesting was done by threshing crews in which everyone participated. The grain was hauled to the Grain Growers' in Leduc by wagon.



Metro Tancowney



Metro's daughters, Eva, Mary, Annie, Kate and Hazel.



Metro Tancowney's youngest daughter, Alice.



John (Metro's son) in front of house at Wilton
Park.

Their only means of entertainment was when friends and neighbours would gather for an evening of card playing and reminiscing. Weddings were held at home in a lean-to that was constructed for their first daughter's wedding. The feasting and dancing were held in the addition, which accommodated 200-250 people.

Christmas was celebrated in the traditional manner. At the sight of the first star, father would bring in a sheaf of wheat and place it under the table, with this, supper would commence with the twelve dishes of Christmas. There were no Christmas presents or a decorated tree, but they had treats like candy or oranges for the children. The three days of Christmas were times of feasting and carolling at different friends' homes.

In 1918 tragedy strick. Flu swept the country, taking a heavy toll of lives. In Nov. 1918 Feshka was stricken and passed away.

In 1929 Metro sold his land in the Wilton Park area and moved to Barrhead, where he resided until his death in 1943.

PAUL AND NETTIE TANCOWNY

submitted by Delores Switlyk

Paul Tancowny was born in 1860 in Europe, Nettie Popik was born in 1869. They were married in 1886 in Lazu, Austria. They immigrated to Canada (the promised land) in 1901 with their children John, Feshka, and Mary.

When they arrived in Canada, they stayed with Paul's brother Metro (who immigrated in 1898) to the Glidhurst area. Paul worked with Metro on the railway at Trail, B.C. until he had purchased a homestead and enough equipment to clear and work the land.

In about 1903 they moved to their homestead, in the Calmar area. Their first home was a ground house (dug into the ground) and a couple of years later they built a log house. This log house had a dirt floor, and to decorate the house for Sunday they used leaves to cover the floor.

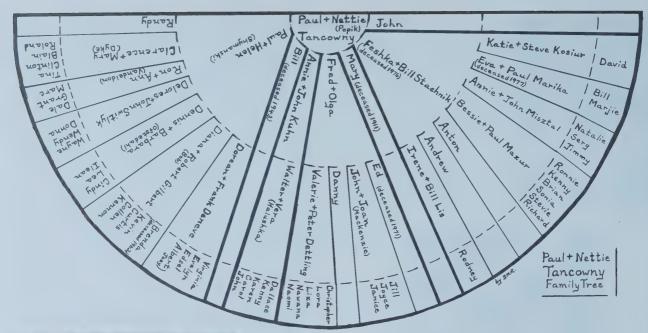
Clearing the land was done by hand with an axe, then removing the trees was done by horses or steer (if you had one) and breaking the soil was done with a walking plow pulled by a horse or steer. They cleared approximately 5 acres a year. Seeding was done by hand. Their yield was about 30-40 bushels per acre.

They depended totally on the land for their livelihood, grew their own vegetables and kept them in a root cellar for the winter, salted their pork and fish and stored them in a barrel, wheat was ground into flour, wheat and barley were roasted then ground into coffee, and salt and sugar were purchased if there was money available. For additional money Paul cut and trimmed willow posts into 7 foot lengths and sold them in Leduc for 2¢ each. He hauled them there with a team of oxen. Paul purchased two steers from his neighbour and trained them as oxen. They made the round trip faster then a team of horses could.

By 1912 Paul and Nettie had several more acres cleared, a few head of cattle, a team of horses and a horse powered grinder. By then their family consisted of Fred born in 1903 (now living in Vancouver), Annie born in 1906 (now living in Planeview Manor, Leduc), Bill born in 1910 (deceased in 1943), Paul Jr. born in 1912 (now living in Thorsby), John born in Europe (living in the U.S.), Feshka born in Europe (deceased), Mary born in Europe (deceased in 1911).

In 1919 Paul purchased Sec. 23 in the Riverford area. Riverford school was built on this section in 1917. Their first class started in the fall of 1918, with Kenneth Beatty as the first teacher. Mr. Beatty passed away shortly after, from blood poisoning. In Feb., 1919 Agnes Sandstrom took over the teaching job.

In 1924 Nettie became ill and passed away. In 1928 Paul Sr. moved to the land he had purchased in the Riverford area, with his two sons, Bill and Paul Jr. In the years that followed they cleared more land and farming picked up. Then in 1930 disaster struck; grain prices dropped severely from \$1.38 a bushel (for wheat) to 16¢ a bushel. Work was hard and rewards were few - much more than we could ever imagine today in our generation of technology. Paul Sr. lived at





Mrs. Annie Dobko and her daughter, Mary Shymansky, 1929.



Family Reunion at Fred Klimosko. Vera, Mom, Dad, Feshka, Annie Kuhn, John, Annie, Hazel, 1963.



Back row — John Shymansky, Millie Green, Mike Shymansky, Rosie Wagar, Alex Shymansky. Front row — Henry Shymansky, Mother Mary Shymansky, and Helen Tancowney.

Riverford with his sons until his passing in Jan. 1939.

On Feb. 10, 1940 Paul Jr. married Helen Shymanski of Buford. Their wedding took place at the Shymanski farm, where 250 guests attended the reception and barn dance that followed. Gifts consisted of items such as table cloths, a few candy dishes, pots or roasters and ornaments.

Some of the farm equipment he had at this time, were a two-bottom gang plow, 12-ft. drill and 6-ft. disc. These were horse powered until 1952 when he bought his first tractor (a McCormick W-4).

In the following three years his brother Bill lived with them until his death in 1943.

In 1953 they cleared another twenty acres of land. After having several crop failures, (from hail or frost), Paul was forced to seek employment. He worked for Poole Construction in Edmonton, as a carpenter and received \$1.50 an hour.

They assisted in the construction of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church in Calmar, in which they are presently active members.



Five Generations, 1975.
Great Great Grandmother, John Shymansky Great Grandfather,
Olga Halladay her son and his baby son.

In 1975 Mom and Dad moved to Thorsby (where they are presently residing), leaving their son Dennis to tend the farm.

Doreen - Born Nov. 15, 1940 married Frank Deneve and they farm S.W. 22-49-1-W5 in the Thorsby area.

Diana - Born Jan. 27, 1942 married Bob Gilbert who owns and operates Gilbert Light Oilfield Hauling, Brooks, Alberta.

Dennis - Born Jan. 14, 1943 married Barb Ofstedahl. They farm S.W. 23-50-27-W4 and Dennis is a truck driver in the Calmar area.

Delores - Born Feb. 16, 1944, married John Switlyk. Delores is in nursing, President of A.A.R.N.A. Lynwood Chapter, a member on the board of directors of a condominium complex, and is now residing in Edmonton.

Ron - Born June 2, 1948 married Ann Van Deldon. Ron is a radio technician manager of Johnny's Appliances Leduc, Alberta.

Clarence - Born Dec. 17, 1949 married Mary Dyck. He works with Shelby Drilling, Brooks, Alberta.

Randy - born Aug. 28, 1959 works with Planet Equipment, Devon, Alberta.

MIKE WURBAN FAMILY

by Millie Kelsey

Oldest son of Daniel Wurban, Mike, married Annie Kuzio, daughter of Mike and Annie Kuzio of Thorsby on January 29, 1937. They have 1 daughter, Patricia, born April 24, 1947. Pat married Jim Watkins and they have 3 children: Shelley, Stacey, and Ashley.



Mike, Annie and Patricia Wurban.



Mike and Annie Wurban's 25th Anniversary.



Patricia and Jim Watkins.

Both families live in their own homes on the farm in the Wilton Park district, originally owned by Dan Wurban. Both homes have modern conveniences. Mike still grain farms and does carpentry work.

JOHN AND ANNE YAREMKO

written by Stella Kozial

John Yaremko was born on April 11, 1897, in Sprucedale, Alberta. He grew up there and worked on the railroad and then on construction. At harvest time he spent much of the time at home helping his parents and working with threshing crews.

In 1923, John came to Calmar and bought a farm in the Wilton Park district. He also rented a farm from Steve Mryglod for three years.

On February 8, 1925, he and Annie Shymansky were married. The next year they built a 2 room log house and a barn and moved onto their farm. When winter came during their first couple of years, they remember they had no straw to feed their animals and had to haul it from their neighbors. The winters were very cold and the roads were bad in their district at that time. John remembers he worked on Luke Koziol's threshing machine crew for about ten years.

His health became poor and after having an operation he rented the farm to Bill Domzy for three years. In the fall of 1956 he sold it to John Hancar and in the spring of 1957 they had a farm auction sale and moved into Edmonton. He had lived in the Calmar district for 34 years.

On February 8, 1975 John and Annie celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Edmonton.



John and Anne Yaremko in 1975



ANNIVERSARIES AND MEMORIES



Olaf & Anna Anderson — 60th Anniversary







Pioneer citizens of Thorsby area. Herb Merriam aged over 100 years, P.B. Callaway on his 90th Birthday, James Callaway and Emanuel Helfenstein. Picture taken on July 15, 1974.



Grandma Maser celebrates 91st birthday, with son Gustave. Grandaughter Betty and great grandson, a four generation affair.



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brewster Sr. on her 90th birthday in Nov., '78. They celebrated their 61 wedding anniversary on Sept. 11, 1978.



Mr. and Mrs. P.B. Callaway on their 60th wedding anniversary Nov., 1967 with their three daughters Helen Green, Edith Clouston and Gwen Ross behind.



Mrs. and Mrs. Sam Lunde on their 60th wedding anniversary — behind them, (left to right) Minnie, Ella, Karl, Karlene, Gus, Ole and Erling.



Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Alstyne on their 50th anniversary, June 1965. L. to R. Art Lottridge, the honored couple, Nellie and Bert Peake.



Frederick and Leo Brier's 60th anniversary, 1972.



Mr. and Mrs. Karl Mielke on their 56th wedding anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller, were married 59 years on Feb. 14, 1979.



Albert and Mabel Paul 50th and their family Phyllis Dennis, Dale Paul, Gary and Royce Pau.



Mr. and Mrs. George Pekarchik on their 50th wedding anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. Chris Forster 50th wedding anniversary.



50th wedding anniversary of W. M. and Anne Dobko and family 1978.



Joe and Annie Bendoritis' golden wedding Mom, Dad, Shirley, Gus, Leona, John and Angela. October 16, 1976.



Fiftieth anniversary of John and Jennie Senio.



Nick and Martha Switlyk at their 50th anniversary celebration.



50th wedding anniversary of Metro and Anne Dubko and family 1975.



Steve and Jennie Pankewicz, 50th wedding anniversary, May 27th, 1961.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kruger entering church on 50th anniversary April 15, 1969.



50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hoshowski Sr.



Mr. and Mrs. John Bilar, 50th wedding anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kivitt 50th anniversary Dec. 6, 1978 taken in Telfordville Hall.



Herman and Elsa Brandt, 50th wedding anniversary 1978.



Anniversary of Rudolph and Erna Schmidt in 1975.



John and Martha Wagar on their 50th wedding anniversary.



Mr. & Mrs. Anton Dedio on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.



50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Brod in 1976. Standing: Harold, Olinda, Erna, Philip Jr., Edna and Raymond Brod.



50th wedding anniversary Geraldine, Mr. Wageman and Mrs. Wageman, Neil.



Mom and Dad Dorn's, 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 18, 1967. (left to right): Dad, George, Norma, Marie Clarence, and Mom sitting in chair.



Mother and Dad Freimans golden wedding anniversary, 1965.



Mr. and Mrs. William Rasch's 50th wedding anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. John Rovinsky 50th wedding anniversary, June 14, 1975.



Mr. and Mrs. Julius Hoffman on their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 13, 1977 in Warburg.



Golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kison, 1969.



William and Annie Stashko 50th wedding anniversary, Nov. 7, 1974.



Mr. and Mrs. Clee Hale on the day of their "Golden Wedding" 1967.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schabert on their 50th wedding anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. John Kuta's 50th wedding anniversary.



Joseph Sr. and Antonia Zukowski on 50th anniversary. Left to right: Joseph Jr., Rose Cender, Mike and Robert Zukowski.



Left to Right: John Harrish, John and Annie Kuzio, Katie Yaremko, March 1968; John and Annies golden wedding anniversary.



Charles and Frieda O'Rielly 50th anniversary, May 1956. Back: left to right, Harry O'Rielly, Gertrude Herregodts and Porter O'Rielly.



John and Anne Yaremko on their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 8, 1975.



Mr. and Mrs. George Pichonsky celebrating their 40th anniversary.



Michael and Thelma Drewoth on their 40th wedding anniversary in Edmonton, July, 1976.



The Albert Hubscher family with grandchildren on their 40th anniversary.



Rudolph and Hilda Klatt on their 45th anniversary March 29, 1977.



Nick and Stella Zingle on the occasion of their 45th wedding anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. Metro Kobeluck married 45 years with their family around them except for their youngest daughter Jane.



Harold and Fanny Artindale's 40th wedding anniversary.



Theresa Donaldson, Georgia Wilson, Jessie Cochrane, Jean Ewing, Junie Dolling, Mr. and Mrs. George MacFarquhar, 40th wedding anniversary.



The Steve Senio family on their 40th wedding anniversary. (left to right) Ernie, Elizabeth, Allan, seated Dad and Mother.



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bittner 40th anniversary, 1966.



Marion and Purvis Leeder 40th anniversary.



Albert and Mary Hubscher's 40th anniversary.



Mr. & Mrs. Gust Modin 60th Wedding Anniversary — 1975



Mr. & Mrs. Albert Huber Golden Wedding — 1956 Elsie & Ruth in background



lvor & Rebekka Hoyem 60th Wedding Anniversary — April 2, 1971 Cutting traditional Norwegian Wedding Cake



Floyd & Grace Maxwell 50th Wedding Anniversary



Mr. & Mrs. Demetro Fryk 51st Wedding Anniversary — July, 1971



Mr. & Mrs. John Erickson — 1958 Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary



Mrs. & Mrs. Carl Nystrom Golden Wedding Day — April 17, 1962



Harold and Ellen Seal age 91



Melvin and Ina Anderson's 50th wedding anniversary



Mrs. Augusta Flater on her 88th Birthday



49th Anniversary at Sandholm Community Centre Steve & Louise Petuh with Christie & Fred Moore as attendants.



Birthday party for Mrs. Bertha Van Alstyne, July 1975. L. to R. Mrs. L. Pearson, Mrs. W. Kruger, Mrs. Van Alstyne, Mrs. L. Seidel, Mrs. B. Richards, Mrs. W. Scott, Mrs. M. Stone and Win Scott.



AGRICULTURE



Stack threshing before 1920.



Old fashioned way of raising hogs.



Dirk Cornish and Otto K. Miller combining in 1977. Truck belongs to Miller.

APPOINTMENT OF FIRST DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

by Peter Wyllie

On Dec. 8, 1936 Peter Wyllie B. Sc. was appointed as District Agriculturist to serve the territory between Strathcona M.D. and Hobbema Indian Reserve, a territory which included Leduc, Millet, Wetaskiwin and all territory west from those towns to the Saskatchewan River, including the Thorsby district. This large area was served from the Leduc office to Oct. 1937, when it was decided that the office should be located at Thorsby.

Peter Wyllie and family moved to Thorsby on Nov. 13, 1937 and established the D.A. office at the house rented from Fred Mudry. The sunporch was the D.A. office, and it was from this office that Dist. Agriculturists served the Thorsby area for a number of years.

The District Agriculturist's task was a varied one, from blood testing poultry, arranging for field days, to organizing stallion clubs. Horse power was very important to the farmers as tractors were few and far between. Junior swine clubs, grain clubs, distributing forage seed and fertilizers, judging school fairs, demonstrating the need for fertilizers on forage crops, arranging for the distribution of purebred bulls, purebred boars, and countless other tasks related to Agriculture Improvement.

Today's District Agriculturist is located in a good sized office surrounded by equipment, supplies, and a steno to do their office work. Such was not the case in the early days at Thorsby and my good wife Marion became adept at answering the phone or handing out a milk recipe for an orphan colt, or selling cultures for innoculation of forage seed, when I was away from the office.

Organization of various boys and girls clubs was one of the more pleasant tasks, and very rewarding too. The first grain club was organized in Thorsby at the Pool Elevator March 12, 1938 with D.C. MacRae as club leader. Some of the activities, and results obtained are as follows:

August 1938. Members of Thorsby junior wheat club have been quite active during the past weeks with meetings, field days and exhibiting at Thorsby Fair.

On Aug. 1 a meeting was held at the Pool Elevator. Arrangements were made in connection with proposed field day at the University of Alberta, and Mr. MacRae gave a short talk on grading grain, and showed the boys samples of various grades. He also spoke on exhibiting of sheaves at Thorsby Fair.

Following this the district agriculturist gave a talk on preparation of a sheaf for the fair. The boys then assisted in the actual preparation and dressing of a sheaf.

At the Thorsby Fair, the first 6 placings in wheat were exhibited by junior members. These 6 sheaves were later taken by the judge to be sent to Montreal. The boys are to be congratulated on their showing at



The home and office of the District Agriculturist P. Wyllie at Thorsby from Nov. 13th 1937 to Feb. 15th 1941.



May 21, 1940.

Horticultural Field Day held at the farm of R. Becker, 3 miles north of Thorsby. Dr. Shoemaker, horticulturist at U. of A. on the left explains methods of pruning fruit trees.



May 24, 1940. Seeder and tractor loaded, and ready to move to next farm.



August 3, 1940.
Thorsby Junior Wheat and Barley Club members on a tour of all plots belonging to members of the club. D.C. McRae, 2nd from left, Club leader.



August 3, 1940.

E. Kvarnberg member of Thorsby Wheat Club standing in his plot on his fathers farm near Buford.



August 6, 1940.

Home Economics demonstration held on the grounds at the Thorsby office with Miss Helen McCaia in charge.



Interesting source of power for fertilizing equipment in early 1930s.



1940 Winter road.

Thorsby Fair.

On August 11 with cars loaned by Mr. Ohrn, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Kvarnberg and the Govt. car, 16 members were taken to the U. of A. for their field day, held in conjunction with Leduc, Legal, Bon Accord and Spruce Grove.

During the present week the judge has been busy scoring the plots of the Thorsby Grain Club and reports have been interesting among junior members, and with very attractive plots. Final decision was quite close as indicated by scores of 10 highest members shown below.

Russel Peterson	89
David Gaulter	881/2
Mark Forbes	87
Lorimer Shilson	851/2
Edwin Sontag	83
Norman Ruff	82
Johnny Meditsky	
Arnold Krueger	811/2
Walter Dunlop	80
Henderson Burgess	78

Majority of the plots have been well arranged and kept pure. Farmers desiring to obtain pure Red Bob seed next spring would be well advised to keep in touch with the members of Thorsby Wheat Club.

One member of this club went on to become a prominent seed grower in this province, and in recent years Ernest Kvarnberg served as president of the Alberta Seed Growers Association.

Horticulture interested many farm women and men, and a first Horticulture Field Day was held at R. Becker's farm north of Thorsby.

First Ladies Home Economics at Thorsby, because of cost of hall, and being it was a very hot day, it was held out of doors alongside the D.A. office in the shade. Certainly the hastily arranged seats were not the most comfortable, however the ladies enjoyed an interesting and informative meeting.

Possibly the most interesting part of D.A.'s. work was the use of fertilizers on forage crops on grey wooded soils. The picture illustrates the fertilizer equipment I used throughout the territory to establish demonstration plots. The fertilizer equipment was loaned to D.A. office by Elephant Brand fertilizer people and attached to the Govt. car and driven by sprocket and chain from rear wheel of the car. Other fertilizer work included the use of fertilizer seeded with grain crops.

Roads were always a problem and many hours were spent coping with muddy roads in the summertime - and heavy snows in the winter. One trip took all night from Edmonton to Thorsby. In the background is the Breton bus and its passengers in the middle of the convoy.

Our sojourn in the Thorsby area was busy but it was very interesting. We enjoyed our work with the farmers and the boys and girls clubs. Many pleasant memories remain today of our stay in Thorsby.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FIELD SUPERVISOR TO THE AGRICULTURAL BOARD M.D. LEDUC #75, End of 1946

With the formation of an Agricultural Service Board in the Municipality of Leduc, set up under the Agricultural Service Bd. Act, the writer of this report was engaged as field Supervisor for this municipality and started work April 15, 1946. In connection with soil conservation, with particular reference to weed control, to bring to the attention of the A.S.Bd. and the Municipal council the general situation with respect to weeds throughout the municipality, and as supervisor, to offer some suggestions in regard to the program for 1947.

- (a) To encourage the adoption of proper cultural practises and rotation of crops.
- (b) To encourage the use of competitive crops, such as grasses and legumes, fall rye, and early barleys.
- (c) To minimize the use of summerfallow as much as possible in weed control.
 - (d) The conservation of soil and water resources.
- (e) The control of weeds and the rehabilitation of abused and depleted land. With a view to fully developing the Agricultural resources of the municipality.

The 1946 weed control program adopted by the council was:

- 1. That a general survey be made of the weed situation throughout the municipality, and the same to be recorded.
- 2. To conduct a seed drill survey, seed to be taken from drills in the field and tested for weed content and purity as to variety. Costs for testing, if any to be paid for from municipal funds.
- 3. In co-operation with Provincial Dept. of Agriculture to arrange for a limited number of demonstration plots on weed control, where suitable operators can be found among residents of Municip.
- 4. That the council make available a limited number of forage crop seed to be used by the supervisor for demonstration purposes. Total amount to be spent not to exceed \$100.00.
- 5. That the council make available a limited amount of fertilizer to be used in the plots on competitive plots as a method of weed control, amount not to exceed 300 lbs.
- 6. That council or Dept. of Public Works take extra land on each side of the road if necessary on secondary highways and main market roads and construct a type of road with the ditch backsloped so that it could be seeded to grass.
- 7. That council make available chemical weed killer to be sold to the ratepayers at cost.
- 8. That a publicity program be carried out through the local newspaper, and meetings held regarding weed control, forage crops and soil conservation.
- 9. That steps be taken to arrange for seed supplies of fall rye and early barley in order to facilitate the weedcontrol.



Daniel Wurban's threshing crew.



Herb Ohrn with his seed drill about 1927.



Breaking land on George McFarquhar's farm. Junie and Jennie.



Harold Seal Jr. on the cultivator 1937.

- 10. That the Service Bd. arrange for a survey of the present seed cleaning equipment in the municipality, and be prepared to make a recommendation to council at year's end with respect to any future policy governing the operation of this equipment.
- 11. To investigate the possibility of rehabilitation of weed infested municipal owned land.
- 12. In co-operation with the Provincial and Federal authorities to take any weed control measures necessary on Govt. owned lands, river bottoms and lake shores.

Regarding weeds, it must be remembered that moisture conditions were very favorable in 1946, and this brought out the worst weed situation in many years.

Canada Thistle, Perennial Sow Thistle, Couch grass, leafy spurge, Hedge Bindweed, Toad Flax, Wild Oats, Tartarian buckwheat, Wild Mustard and Corn spurrey have all been found in various farms in the municipality, some much heavier in certain areas. Other weeds have been noted from time to time, but they are not the problem as in the case of the mentioned weeds.

There are 26 grain elevators located at 11 points within the boundaries of the municipality. Eleven of them have grain cleaning equipment in use, or in the process of being installed.

Farm survey cards have been set up on a 5 year basis, and if properly filled out each year, should give a fair picture of the weed situation on farms. These survey cards would also provide a record of the cropping plan followed, machinery available, numbers of livestock etc. Also the number of years the land in question had been handled by the present operator. In 1946 a total of 73 prohibition orders were issued on 2,430 acres of land which was the most seriously affected with weeds.

Some suggestions made by Field Supervisor Wyllie were: To provide additional help for inspecting work during summer months, to ensure a closer check on the destruction of weeds in standing crops. Destruction of weeds on road allowances.

Purchase of better spraying equipment for use on road allowances, farms where thistles appear on uncultivated land, and are beyond the capacity of the operator to control them. On farms where wild mustard is a problem to prevent it from spreading throughout municipality.

To organize a better roadside competition with prizes to improve the appearance of road allowances and to provide a better weed control on them. To develop back sloping on newly constructed roads to the point where it becomes standard practise in the municipality. To place greater emphasis on the value of legumes and grasses. To carry on more demonstrations in respect to weed control plots, forage crops, etc.

The cost of the Service Board set up in this municipality from April 15 to Dec. 31, 1946 was:

Car expenses at 8¢ a mile	449.12
Supervisor's expenses	141.50
Service Bd. members	
allowance & mileage	132.40
Forage crop seed & fertilizers	15.00
Total	\$2,438.02
Less the portion of supervisor's	
salary to be paid by Dept. of Agric.	708.30
Net cost to municipality	\$1,729.72

\$1,700.00

Supervisor's salary

"It is my privilege to submit the foregoing report at this time and to express appreciation to Tom Kilduff, J.J. Terlesky, D. Holland and W.A. Bradbury, members of the Agricultural Service Board for the advice and assistance they gave me throughout this season."

Respectfully submitted by Peter Wyllie.



Eva and Mary Terlesky with sheaves of oats in 1916. The sheaves were hand tied with stalks of the grain. They were then set up into stooks of from 6 to 9 sheaves. The girls did the stooking.



Herb Ohrn's binder in 1926 with sons Don and Ralph on it.



1940, Grain had to be stooked to dry before threshing.

A general summary of the past season's work from April 15 to Dec. 31 follows.

Number of visits or calls made on work

Month	Miles travelled	Weeds	Forage crops	Demonstration plots	Misc. & meetings	Field days
April	274	8	2	0	3	1
May	664	23	12	10	17	3
June	523	8	4	5	6	2
July	929	70	6	8	12	4
Aug.	197	125	7 .	2	8	5
Sept.	816	70		_	2	ź
Oct.	610	7	7		26	2
Nov.	206				15	4
	5,614 mi.	311	38	25	97	29

Summary of cropping practises on 92 quarter sections. Average period of occupancy 10 and 3/4 years.

Various crops		Total acreage	Ave. per 1/4 sec.	% of total cultivated acs.
Wheat		1,642	17.84	17.0%
Oats		2,554	27.76	26.4%
Barley		2,627	28.55	27.1%
Other crops		229	2.49	2.3
Summerfallow		1,678	18.24	17.2
Breaking		96	1.03	1.0
Forage crops			2003	1.0
Seed		59	.64	.6
Hay		598	6.5	6.2
Pasture	1	197	2.14	2.0
		9,680	105.2	99.8

Includes green feed, rye, other minor crops.

In compiling the above data, only 6.5% of the farms had new breaking done in 1946. 4.3% of the farms had some forage crops left for seed production and 56.5% of the quarters reported no tame hay, and 86% reported no tame pastures. Also noted were that in spite of week conditions prevailing on this land, 29.3% were without an acre of land summerfallowed in 1946.

Table 11

Quarter section units only . . . 58 farms
Owners 48.3% Purchasers 29.3% Tenants 22.4% = 100%

a) Livestock	Total	Average no. of head per farm
Horses	237	4.1
Milch cows	318	5.5
Other cattle	. 305	5.3
Sheep	50	.86
Brood sows	74	1.28
Other hogs	585	10.1

(b) Machinery

39 out of 58... largely depended on horses for farm power.

19 out of 58 (9 old type tractors . . . 10.25 years old,

10 newer type . . . 1.6 years old)

8 farms out of 58 were without equipment of any kind, and depended on borrowed equipment, or hiring the work done, or renting on a crop share basis.

		Percentage of total
Kind	Number	58 farms
Plow	46	79.3
Tiller	2	3.3
Drill	41	70.7
Rod weeder	0	0 5.2
Wire or cable weeder	3	5.2
Cultivator	11	19.0
Disc	44	75.9
Binder	47	81.0
Mower	34	60.0
Rake	34	60.0
Swather & Combine	2	3.3
Threshing Machine	1	1.7
Packer	1	1.7

On 44 farms the disc was the only cultivation equipment available for weed control. In many cases not only was the operator short of equipment but what he did have was worn out. Based on provincial averages in this crop district; for yields and market values an estimate has been made showing that the probable average gross income for the group of 58 farms would be in the neighborhood of \$1,500.00. Weeds are not the only problem that requires solution, it is largely an extension problem in general farm management.

CLIMATE, SOILS, AND CROPS OF THE THORSBY DISTRICT

by Brian L. Colgan

. The prosperity of the farms located in the Thorsby district were and are not only determined by the hard work and careful husbandry of the people farming the land, but also by the kind of soil and the weather with which they had to work.

The Thorsby district is located in the soil transition zone of the Province of Alberta, where the soils change from the rich thick black soils of the parkland to the less productive grey wooded soils to the west.

The soils located in the area east of Weed Creek and north of Wizard Lake are the rich black soils of the Angus Ridge Loam, Navarre and Malmo silty clay loams type. These soils are rich in organic matter and are naturally fertile. They are relatively easier to make productive.

In the areas lying west of Telfordville and Weed Creek and north of Pigeon and Wizard Lakes, the soils are composed primarily of Breton loam — a grey-wooded soil type. This soil has a much lower organic matter content than the black soil and is less fertile in its virgin state. The settlers found they had to include forages in their rotations to keep these soils in good tilth and productive.

The central area of the Thorsby district west of the Meridian, between Strawberry and Weed Creek and north of Weed Creek center, is characterized by soils of the Dark Grey and Dark Grey Wooded Type. These soils are easier to farm than the soils to the west but are not as superior as the soils to the east.

Of course these are very broad categories and there are several quarters and sections interspersed in these areas that are not typical and do not fall under these classifications. In the southern and western part of the district there are several areas of peat. These areas are usually associated with low wet spots covered by black spruce, tamarack and birch.

Another typical soil type in the district are the solonetzic soils — commonly called hardpan or gumbo soils. These soils have a thin layer of topsoil beneath which lies an impenetrable hardpan layer that restricts root growth and drainage. These are the soils that have caused so much heartbreak and frustration over the years to the people farming them. They are either too wet to get on to seed or harvest or else they are too dry and the crops suffer because there is no reserve of moisture on which to draw. A couple of patches of this kind of soil are found to the west of Thorsby with a couple of smaller patches to the east of Glen Park.

The climate of the area is of course another major factor contributing to the success of the farm operations in the area. On average, the growing season in the Thorsby district is 103 days. The last frost in the spring occurs around May 31st and the first frost in the fall coming around September 12th on the average.

The average annual precipitation is 17.22 inches with 11.1 inches falling during the growing season.

Everyone can recall the bad years which these averages do not reflect, when the first frost came in the middle of August or it was so wet and rainy all summer that it was difficult to get the hay made and the crops harvested.

On the average, the growing season and the precipitation have been adequate to support the production of the coarse grains and forages. During the last 10 years, we have seen an increasing acreage devoted to the Cinderella crop, rapeseed. The production of the longer season crops of wheat and flax is somewhat restricted. Cropwise, barley, oats, timothy, brome, alfalfa and clover have been the

mainstay over the years.

Livestock production has gone hand in hand with the production of the feed grains and forages. All through the years dairy, hogs, poultry and beef have formed an integral part of the Thorsby district's agricultural base.

THE BLINDMAN VALLEY CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LTD.

written by Albert VanAlstyne

The idea of a co-operative marketing association or "hog pool" as it was commonly called, is said to have originated at a United Farmers of Alberta meeting. During the winter of 1922-23, at the home of John Holmen who lived 8 miles west of Bentley. As a follow-up to this idea, meetings were held in Bentley and at Chapel school and Lockhait Hall. Several other meetings were also held resulting in a decision to organize a shipping association.

Application for incorporation required the signatures of 20 people. Registration took place July 16, 1923. The fall of 1923 and early 24 was spent in securing the necessary 300 signatures to the marketing agreement, a figure decided upon as the minimum required before commencing shipments.

On Feb. 12, 1924 the first shipment consisting of 458 hogs, by the new organization, took place from the Bluffton, Rimbey, Forshee and Bentley points. Net price received was \$5.95 per cwt. basis live weight. Following the first shipment, operations were extended to Nugent and Hoadley with Aspen Beach, Lacombe and Blackfalds included in the fall of 1926.

As the railroad was extended north more requests were received for shipping point services with the result that Breton was included in the fall of 1927. Winfield in 1929 and Warburg and Thorsby in 1934. Shipments were made from Sunnybrook for several years beginning in 1944.

As of May 1936, a total of 1,333,585 hogs had been shipped from the various points bringing a total of \$40,026,937.00. Cattle and sheep had been

shipped as well.

The organization was instrumental in having the Dominion Dept. of Agriculture place a specialist at Lacombe in 1926 to carry out swine improvement work. At this time the first swine clubs were organized. In 1934 a sow exchange policy was begun whereby bacon type gilts were exchanged for sows of thick conformation. Again in 1938 and '39 an extensive campaign was carried our to place pure bred boars.

The worthiness of these methods to improve herds was shown when hogs shipped by the Co-operative were of higher average grade than ones from other areas of Canada. Under the live grading system hogs were shipped to every major plant in the country. In the business year ending May 31, 1944, a total of 58,

726 hogs were shipped which was just short of being one percent of the total in all Canada.

The sale of hogs brought very low returns to the farmer during the Depression of the 1930's. The lowest yearly average price was in 1932 when it was \$2.90 per cwt. The lowest price for a single shipment was Jan. 11, 1933 when hogs sold for \$2.45 per cwt. live weight basis for "bacon grade". At that time "select grade" brought a premium of 50¢ per cwt. "Butcher" grade was discounted 50¢ per cwt. from "bacon" grade price which in this instance would be \$1.95 per cwt.

Mr. G. Wright was manager of the "hog pool" for most of its years in business and contributed greatly to its success. About 1935 Angus McDougal was elected a director of the Co-op. to represent the Thorsby, Warburg and Breton shipping points. The maximum term of a director was 8 years. Other directors were Art Lottridge, 1942-50, Fred VanAlstyne 1930-58. Bernard Barager 1958-66 and David Gitzel 1966-71.

Henry Ohrn was the first buyer at Thorsby, others in order were, John Harrison, George Hakes, James Dornan, Raymond Brod, Bernard Barager, Ernest Spidor and Harry Brown

Snider and Henry Patzer.

In 1971 the Co-operative Buying and Shipping transactions came to a close after many years of invaluable service to hog producers. The Co-operative Board of Directors decided that money on hand, after close of business, should be donated to senior citizens' homes in the districts in which the co-operatives had operated. At a ceremony in 1977 at the Cloverleaf Manor in Warburg, Mr. H.H. Peterson and Mr. F.J. Rice, last president and vice-president of the Co-op, presented a donation of \$4000.00 to the Manor. Mr. Goldring of Devon accepted the gift on behalf of the Leduc Foundation. Mr. Art Lottridge thanked the representatives of the Co-op. for their splendid donation, on behalf of all the senior citizens living in the Manor.

BEEF CATTLE

by David Gaulter

Cattlemen have many breeds to choose from today, but thirty to forty years ago there were three main breeds: Hereford, Aberdeen Angus and Shorthorn. At present there is a choice of several exotic breeds, namely, Charolais, Simmental, Limousin, Maine-Anjou and several more recent imports from Europe. To my mind, the three original breeds are still holding their own, in fact the Hereford are definitely the most popular. Few of the breeds from Europe have been in Canada long enough to permit comparative evaluation under our conditions.

My sole experience has been with Aberdeen Angus cattle. This is due to the fact that my grandfather Charles Ellett purchased his first herd in 1896, thereby holding the Alberta and possibly the

Dominion record for owning the oldest continuous herd of purebred cattle. My father William Gaulter bought two heifers from him when he got established in the Fruitland district in 1921, and then he acquired heifers from other breeders. He also purchased bulls at different times over the years from my grandfather. I have always maintained the policy of buying a good registered herd sire.

Dad kept a herd of thirty to forty brood cows in the 1930's and 1940's. We saved all the straw that was threshed from grain bundles and during the summer we put up all the slough hay on the farm. We gradually increased our herd over the years because of more

convenient ways of putting up hay.

In 1940, I worked for my uncle who had bought fifty head of steers in the fall for seven cents a pound and in the spring of 1941, he sold them for eight cents a pound and he felt he had done very well for our combined work. At present in 1979, the prices are outstanding and the highest on record. A No. 1 finished steer of 1,000 to 1,100 pounds sells at eighty cents a pound. A cow-calf operator needs these prices to survive when the expense of land, taxes and machinery are taken into consideration. It seems prices go in cycles but it would be better if they were kept on an even keel. However, this is one man's opinion. In that way producer and consumer wouldn't suffer from the extremes. Beef is such a favorite of the western world, that it is a question if the public would tolerate substitutes.

Now, back to cattle breeding. Reproductive performance should have high priority. Cows that remain open after the breeding season and cows having calving problems or weaning light weight calves, should be culled out of the herd and sent to market. It is necessary to have a good veterinarian to refer to, as it is impossible for the average farmer to cope with all the emergencies that arise. Bulls supply half the genetic ability of the herd, but by using superior sire stock, the performance of the herd is improved much quicker than through superior cows who can produce only eight calves in their lifetime.

Calving as early as feasible in spring allows calves to achieve some growth and development prior to the grazing season, permits better use of the dam's milk and pasture grass and results in heavier weaning weights. Dry sheltered calving areas and careful management reduce the risk of death loss and illness due to wet weather at calving time.

These are some of the observations I have made during the three generations of beef raising in my family.

HISTORY OF THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

by Ella Schmidt

In the early years, most settlers had a few hens to

provide eggs for the family. In winter they were often housed in a corner of the cattle barn. They had free run of the farm in the summer. To increase the flock, eggs were put under a clucking hen to hatch. Often a wily hen would hide her eggs and emerge weeks later with her brood of chicks in tow. Many of these birds fell prey to coyotes, hawks and owls. Sometimes a hen and her brood were housed in little A-shaped huts each mother hen had her own little house.

As more eggs were sold to stores, etc., the hens were confined, usually by putting a fence adjacent to the barn. They did not have free run of the barn yard so yolks were milder flavored and not such a dark color. They also had some protection from predators. The chicken barn was usually quite small with lots of south windows. It was often wet in winter and had to be cleaned at least once a week with straw added daily.

The time came when chicks were hatched in incubators. Some farmers had their own, but most chicks were bought from a hatchery. In the 1940's, there were a great many hatcheries with a large variety of breeds. They sent out catalogues and the chicks were ordered by mail and picked up at the railway station.

The number of hatcheries has now dwindled to only a handful of large ones with only three or four breeds. They usually offer a white egg layer, a brown egg layer and a cross between the two as well as a heavy meat bird (broiler).

Gradually laying hens began to be housed in cages which have improved to the point where the feeding and watering is totally automated. There are conveyor belts to carry the eggs. The droppings go into pits that are cleaned out about once a year. The barns no longer have windows and the environment is controlled by the use of fans. All this enabled the producer to handle a much larger flock.

However, prices were still unstable until the Egg Marketing Board was formed in 1969. The board grants quotas and sets the price of eggs based on the cost of production. The producer pays a levy on each dozen eggs to operate the board. One result of the board has been only a small variation in prices in the last five years.

When the marketing board came into being, any producer that had 25 or more hens was able to register and vote for or against a marketing board. When the first vote was taken there were over 4000 registered producers. After the board was in operation, there was a request for another vote for or against the board. By now the number of producers had been reduced to less than 400 - anyone with less than 200 layers was not a "registered producer". This has resulted in fewer and larger operations. There is one operator in this area who has 10,000 layers and another has 2800. All caged layers are Leghorns - at least in this area. It is difficult to say how many flocks of 200 or less we have as these are exempt from board regulations.

With hatcheries supplying most of the baby chicks, eggs are needed to hatch them. There is one operator

in the area that has 3400 broiler type laying hens. These birds are not in cages and hatching eggs are handled differently from table eggs in terms of storage

temperature and frequency of delivery.

Any producer may sell ungraded eggs produced on his farm directly to consumers, but retail stores and restaurants must handle a graded product. Some producers do their own grading but those who do not have the facilites take them to the nearest grading station. At one time most small centres had a grading station, but most of these have now closed down. There are only a few large ones left and the nearest is about 50 miles away.

Turkeys, ducks and geese have pretty well the same history although they weren't found on every farm as were chickens. Settlers from Europe often had geese and ducks and used the feathers for pillows and comforters. Many farmers had 100 or more turkeys and it was a good supplement to the farm income. Today turkeys and broilers are under marketing boards and most are raised by a few large producers - I don't know of any in our area.

Many farm wives still have a small flock of broilers or turkeys. They are much in demand and bring a good price, giving the homemaker some money of her own.

All the baby ducks, geese and turkey poults are available at hatcheries, so breeding stock does not have to be held over the winter - except for those who specialize in this area.

We've come a long way from the dozen hens in a corner of the barn. But is it all for the better? I'm sure many people would still like to be able to cook a just-laid egg—dark yolk and all. And our children will never know the thrill of discovering a mother hen with her brood of chicks peeping out from under her wings.



Mrs. Suzanna Mucha and the ducks she raised on their farm.



Daniel and Nancy Wurban with their flock of turkeys.



Old home used for Chicken barn by son Peter Zingle.





DAIRYING

by Linda Krueger

Dairying has had many changes since the thirties. I remember my parents milking 4 or 5 cows by hand. We had a three-legged milk stool and some people had one-legged ones strapped around their waists.

Cows were usually milked outside in a small corral in summer. It must have been because of the straw roofs most barns had, that it usually rained 3 days longer in the barn after it quit raining outside.

The milk was strained into tall metal pails with a lid on, and a spout at the bottom, which could be opened or closed. There was also a glass gauge right above it. This we called the creamer. After the milk was cooled and the cream risen to the top we drained the skimmed milk from the creamer. The cream was made into butter with a homemade wooden churn which fit the creamer. Some had modern churns with a crank which you turned by hand. Butter was then washed and molded with a wooden print, wrapped and taken to town to exchange for groceries.

As the dairy herd grew bigger we got a cream separator which was turned by hand. Cows were still milked the old-fashioned way but we didn't make butter any more to sell. Instead the cream was shipped by train from Thorsby to Calmar or Bluffton creameries, or some people shipped milk to the Thorsby cheese factory.

To get the cream to Thorsby was often a problem. Before trucks came to pick it up, at times the roads were impossible to travel, even with horse and wagon. Some took the 5 gallon can on horseback or carried it to a road where there was some traffic and it was sent along to town.

To keep the cream sweet for a week it was cooled in cold water right after separating, then poured into a 5 gallon can, and hung with a rope into the well. To pull this can up every day was quite a chore, especially when it was almost full. Some people had ice houses to keep things cool. Ice was hauled from a lake in winter and packed in sawdust in a building which was usually insulated with shavings.

The price of cream was \$1.75 to \$2.00 for a 5 gallon can. As prices got better, the dairy herds got bigger and milking machines came to our rescue. The first machines were operated with gas motors. There were a lot of pros and cons about this new labor-saving device. Looks like it wasn't so bad after all, and it's here to stay.

We now have in the barn, pipeline systems and milking parlors with individual stalls or herringbone where you milk in groups of 4, 6, or 8. One person can milk 30 to 50 cows per hour.

Some parlors have a prep stall where the cow is automatically sprayed with water. She then goes to the milking stall where her udder is dried with paper towels, and the milking machines put on. From there the milk goes to a stainless steel pipeline which contains a filter, and then right to the stainless steel bulk tank. It cools immediately to about 5 degrees C. The milking machines and pipeline are automatically washed right after milking and all utensils that come in contact with milk are sanitized prior to milking.

The milk is picked up by the milk truck usually every second day and is hauled to a milk plant either



Some of the dairy herd with silo and loafing barn in background on the Arlin Farms Ltd. near Thorsby.

for manfacturing (i.e. cheese, ice cream, etc.) for which you need a government subsidy quota, or fluid milk (i.e. your table milk and cream). The fluid milk is usually a little higher priced. At present it is approximately \$13.00 per cwt. For this you need a fluid milk quota. This is usually bought for \$5.00 to \$25.00 per pound. Some quota is given free by the milk control board.

We depend a lot on electricity today. What a tragedy when we have a power failure for any length of time, especially during winter. Some people have standby power units which are operated by a tractor. This is fine if you have your tractor in a warm garage so it will start. You can't plug in the block heater because there's no power. You can't switch on the lights to look for the flashlight either. By this time the water lines are frozen in the milk house, the cow's watering bowl, and a few other places. Finally the tractor gets going, and with the help of a propane torch and heat lamps, the water is running again. You feel like a day's work has already been done, but the milking has just begun. This does happen more frequently in summer which presents a few less problems.

Even with modern technology it isn't just "press a switch here and there" and things just sail along. There is a lot of labor involved in the dairy business. Every dairy man and his wife should also be mechanics, electricians, plumbers, veterinarians, carpenters, and

accountants.

MODERN HOG RAISING

A modern hog raising operation is run by the Steve Poholka family 5 miles southeast of Thorsby on the original homestead of his father Michael Poholka. Begun in the early 1950's with only a few hogs being raised primarily outside, it has expanded to currently house approximately 500 hogs at a time.

The main barn which is 34 x 80 feet has 11 larger pens on one side and 13 smaller pens on the other side with part slatted floor, separated by a 32-inch middle alley. Each pen can hold about 20 hogs. A farrowing barn 14 x 80 feet attached to the main barn holds 11 sow farrowing crates and houses a forced air coal stoker for heating and cooling fans. The new born pigs get their teeth clipped and navels disinfected and 2 ml. of iron per pig at 1-3 days of age by intramuscular injection.

A feed processing plant, bought in 1966 from Farm Choring Ltd., was the first to be set up in Alberta. The plant contains 3 bins that hold a total of 21 tons of grain plus a split bin that holds 7 tons of hog concentrate. Grain and concentrate are moved into the bins by a vertical auger run by a 5 h.p. electric motor. The proportioners on the mill can be set to provide the desired grain and concentrate mixture. A 5 h.p. electric motor runs the mill which grinds from



The first Mix - Mill installed by Farm Choring Co. in Alberta.



Farrowing pens in the hog barn.





30 to 50 bushels per hour and simultaneously augers the feed into bins in the hog barn 30 feet away. The mill has an electric timer which can be set to grind up to 2 hours, with electric controls that stop the mill when the bin gets full or if the grain or concentrate runs out.

Probably the most automated part of the whole system is the "limit feeder" which drops the feed on to the floor of the pens at scheduled times for the larger hogs. Self feeders are used for feeding the smaller hogs. The sows are fed manually twice a day.

To complete the operation, the manure is scraped into a 12 x 48 foot, 8 foot deep pit which is cleaned out every 2 months. A liquid manure pump then mixes the manure in the pit and pumps it into a "honey wagon" which spreads the manure on the field. It contains about 10 lbs. of nitrogen, $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. phosphorous and 9 lbs. of potash per ton.

In 1978 the finished hogs can be hauled to a gathering station, or offered to the Alberta Hog Marketing Board by the producer. When sold the Board notifies to which slaughtering plant the hogs are to be delivered. The price is established by all the hogs sold that day.

In 1960 the producer loaded his hogs and delivered them to his choice of slaughtering plant, gathering station, or stock yard. The price was established by the few hogs that were offered at the stock yards.

A finished hog in 1965 dressed weight price per 100 lbs. was \$22.15 compared to \$78.00 in Oct. 1978.

In 1965 the producer received \$35.00 per hog campared to \$135.00 in Oct. 1978.

Weaner pigs were worth about \$35.00 in 1978. In 1965, $42\frac{1}{2}\%$ hog concentrate was \$112.00 a ton compared to \$340.00 a ton in 1978.

Success, success! It doesn't cost, it pays.

HAYING IN THE THORSBY DISTRICT — 1929 - 1979

written by Norman Bittner

Our fathers cut hay with a 5 ft. horse-drawn mower 50 years ago in wild hay meadows and small patches of ground that weren't suited to grain farming. The hay was left to dry, then raked with a dump rake pulled by a team of horses. The rows were then bunched and loaded onto a hayrack, again drawn by a team of horses and hauled to the barn loft, where it was forked into the loft for winter feed. If there was no barn, or if it was full already, the hay would be stacked.

Some hay was even cut with a scythe, piled into neat little stacks called cocks. These cocks could withstand much rain and then were hauled to the barn when it was convenient.

One of the first improvements and steps to mechanization was the buck rate and over-shot system. It used horses to sweep the rows of hay to the stack where a larger fork, also powered by a horse, lifted and threw the hay onto the stack. William Gaulter was one of the first farmers to use this system in our district.

After W.W.2. rubber tired tractors became popular. With them came power mowers, side delivery rakes, mechanical and hydraulic stackers and balers. Walter Hamula had one of the first mowers. Rudolf Stein and Mike Bittner were in partnership on a mechanical stacker and George Bentley had one of the first hydraulic stackers, a "Farm Hand".

Hay was rapidly becoming a more important crop. Some grain fields were seeded to alfalfa, clover and grass mixtures. Farmers were recognizing the importance and need of legumes. Specialization was gradually being practised, therefore dairy and beef farmers required more efficient equipment.



Ernest Jablonski operating his automatic bale wagon in 1978.

For many years the hydraulic stacker which picked up the windrow of hay, transported it to a stack and piled it on, was widely used. It was gradually replaced by the square baler towing a stooker. The stooks were usually made of 10 or 15 bales. For those farmers who did not have a stooker, the bales were either stacked into stooks by hand or loaded onto wagons, also by hand. This required a lot of hard physical labor, especially if the baler was making 300 bales per hour or more.

A few automatic stookers were also used in later years. In 1962 Walter Brewster and Bernard Johnson started putting up their hay in the form of silage. They used a flail type harvester and gravity dump wagons. Since then several other farmers have begun making silage and storing it in different ways. Some silage is stored in piles on the ground and some is put into pits. A few farmers have upright silos with elaborate unloading and feeding machinery.

In 1966 Lloyd Robinson bought this area's first bale wagon. This machine is capable of picking up bales that have been dropped on the ground from the baler and stacking them into a neat load. The load can be then hauled wherever required and unloaded hydraulically to form a good tight stack. The bale wagon has become very popular and has saved a lot of back-breaking work.

Two other machines that are very important in modern day having and silage making are the havbine and the self-propelled swather. They can cut, condition and windrow the hav in one operation.

Joe Martin uses a one-man haying system called "stack hand" by Hesston. It picks up swaths, shreds and blows the hay into a box, hydraulically compresses and discharges the hay into a neat stack.

The latest method of haying in this district is the big round baler. It makes a bale approximately 6 ft. high and 5 ft. wide. The bales weigh between 1000 and 1400 lbs. which is the equivalent of 20 square bales. This method of haying is fast and the bales are relatively safe from spoilage due to rain. The first big round bale owners were Neil Wageman and Norman Bittner.

Hay crops presently occupy about 1/3 of local



Unloading oat silage into pit silo. The pit is 10 ft. deep.



Feeding round hay bales to cattle on Bittner farm.

farmers' acreages and will probably continue to play an important role in agriculture.

A machine that pelletizes hay directly from swath to truck has been experimented with for many years. It will be interesting to see if it ever becomes practical. Is it possible that some other machine will be invented that will make the haying operation more efficient and easier?

BEEF PRODUCTION ON BITTNER FARM

by Norman Bittner

My first experience with feeding steers was in 1955. I bought 20 calves to put on pasture and they were fed grain as well. In succeeding years the calves were bought each fall and fed loose hay and grain from a self-feeder. We lost several animals every year and decided to switch to making and feeding silage.

We made our first silage in 1965. Bruce Morden had some experience with making silage and rented his flail harvester to us. He also did the spreading and packing in the silo. During the years 1965 to 68 most of the silage was fed with the loaders carrying it from pit to the feed lot. We were feeding a few more steers every year and by 1968 we had 185 head. The old lot was really overcrowded by then. All of the steers ate barley from one 10' x 12' field granary which had been converted to a self-feeder. They ate silage from a 20 ft. trench silo and drank water from 1 small water bowl. These turned out to be the best steers ever raised.

In 1969 half the new feed lot was completed and we fed over 250 head that year. The feeding was with 2 self-unloading wagons, a Johne Deere chuck wagon for the silage and a grain-o-vator for the barley.

The spring of 1970 we had 250 acres of barley left to combine as well as the steers to take care of. There was also the crop to put in and we planned to finish the feed lot so that we could feed at least 500 steers the next fall. Obviously the time had come to employ full time help. Up until then John Rovinsky Sr. had been an excellent part-time tractor operator. An ad in the local paper brought a reply from Raymond Jehn of Warburg. A short time later Raymond moved his

trailer and family to our farm.

During the next 4½ years we fed between 500 and 600 steers every winter. Those were very busy and productive years. We grew most of the barley, made all of the silage and bedding every year. We used to fill 2 trench silos each year, one is 175 ft. long by 40 ft. wide and 12 ft. deep. We used about 25,000 bushesl of barley each year.

Raymond and I alternated on chore duties on weekends and he usually had Thursday afternoon off. When we discontinued our operation, Selma and I incorporated our farm and called it "Thorbitt Farms Ltd." The origin of the name is the first half of Thorsby and Bittner combined.

Our oldest son, Wilfred, helped to make silage occasionally by driving the trucks. David and Dwight contributed to the operation by being "gate men" at bedding-down time after school. They all helped to sort out steers that were ready for market.

The feed lot consists of 4 pens, a sorting and squeeze area also a small infirmary. Two pens are 200 ft. square and the other two are 150 ft. square. The larger ones are the best. There are 750 ft. of bunk for fence line feeding and an equal amount of concrete pad 10 ft. wide.

We fed silage only to start the calves and then gradually introduced barley. When they were about ready for market they received only a little silage and lots of barley. The silage and grain were fed twice a day, silage first and the barley on top. It took about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour to do all the feeding. Our silage was usually around 15% protein and ranged from 55 to 75 per cent moisture.

When the calves arrived they were injected with vitamin A and ear notched for identification. We usually had some problems with pneumonia and shipping fever, but rarely lost more than 2 or 3 animals. After they became adjusted to their new surroundings the calves were vaccinated for blackleg, implanted with hormones and treated for warble grubs with Reulene. The disease called "Red Nose" was becoming prevalent at that time and a new problem to face now is "itame".

In 1972 we marketed half of the animals as bulls. They were a little harder to manager but grew much better.

Most of the calves were bought for us by Alberta



Cattle feeding in feed lot on N. Bittner farm.



Feeding cattle in below -40°F. weather.



A liner load of steers ready for market with average weight of 1050 lbs.



Wilfred, Dwight & David Bittner with their 4-H calves in 1976.

Livestock Commission of Edmonton and George Broadbent of Warburg. The Toronto Dominion Bank made it possible for us to pay for them.

In 1973 we did not buy any calves because they were too expensive and barley was rapidly increasing in price. Raymond then went to work for the Alberta Wheat Pool and is still there.

In Dec. 1977 we bought 30 pure bred Hereford cows and presently have 75 pure breds and 215 steers. They are all fed some silage and hay in round bales. Six of the two-year old bulls are being groomed for the Western Stock Show and Sale in Edmonton in March 1979.

During the years we have fed and raised cattle, steer prices have ranged from 20¢ a lb. to the present high of 80¢ per lb. In the "hungry thirties" some farmers did not receive enough money for some



Hereford herd sire on Bittner farm.

animals to pay for the hauling. Raising beef cattle has been an interesting and (usually) a profitable business.

CATTLE TRANSPLANTING

by Algot Dahlbeck

In 1973, my son Duane and myself were fortunate enough to get an import permit for a Marchigiana bull, followed two years later with one for a heifer, which we put in for transplant at Alberta Transplant Centre at Cochrane.

As cattle transplanting was a fairly new concept, we decided to try, hoping for maybe four or five transplants. We were quite surprised to receive word that they had transplanted 29 embryos at the price of \$2500.00 per embryo. At the end of ninety days we received word that 18 cows were considered safe in calf. One later aborted one month before calving so we calved out 17 calves.

One would naturally think that all calves would be identical, as they were from the same dam and sire, but there was no trouble picking out most of them from the herd. We now have ten full blood heifers, having sold all the bulls. Seven of them went to different parts of the U.S.A. as far away as Lindale, Texas and four remained in Canada.

Later there was a female Romagola, also an Italian import that produced 23 live calves from one transplant.

This transplanting of cattle involves injection of the female with hormones to get her to super-ovulate, which means dropping more than one egg. These eggs are then fertilized by certified insemination or natural breeding. Three or four days after insemination the cow is operated on and the eggs (or embryos as they are then called) are evaluated according to strength and transplanted into carrier cows. These cows have all been injected to cycle at the same time as the donor cow, otherwise they won't conceive or carry the calf.

After three months the carrier cows are tested for pregnancy to see if they are safe in calf. The transplant technicians have now improved their technology so far that an embryo can be frozen and shipped to any foreign country, then thawed and transplanted into a carrier cow.

It is also not necessary now to operate on the cow by cutting her open to remove the embryo for transplanting into another cow. Now the embryos are drawn out by suction and injected into the uterus itself.

Dr. Gerald Ollis, formerly of Thorsby (his father was employed in the Bank of Montreal there) was one of the veterinarians involved in the transplant. He worked with Dr. David Dyreholm who spent years working with, and perfecting this procedure.



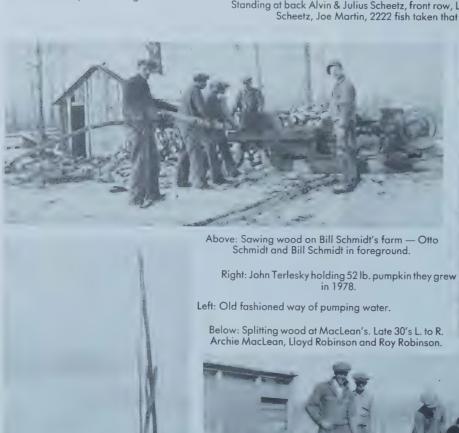
Calves from one cow by transplants.

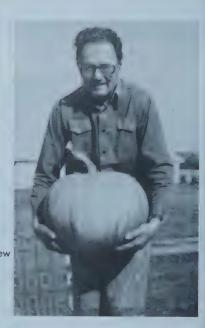


Pearl Blazenko (Nee Terlesky) holding Russel Terlesky and making butter.



NATURE'S PRODUCE FISHING EXPEDITION Standing at back Alvin & Julius Scheetz, front row, Lester Ollenberg, Sam Ollenberg, Arnold Scheetz, Joe Martin, 2222 fish taken that day from 15 nets. About 1956.









"Hub City Challenge" Property of Julius Sheetz, Sam Ollenberg "aboard".



"Free Lunch" — At Edward Scheetz.



Kids and children with Mrs. Walter Brewster Sr. on the Brewster farm.



"Bottle Baby" with Hertha Scheetz Ollenberg.

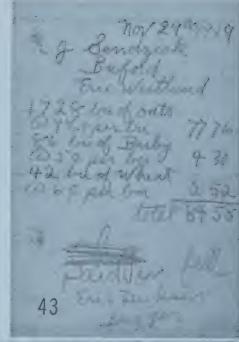


Carole Ross feeding pet lamb in 1949.

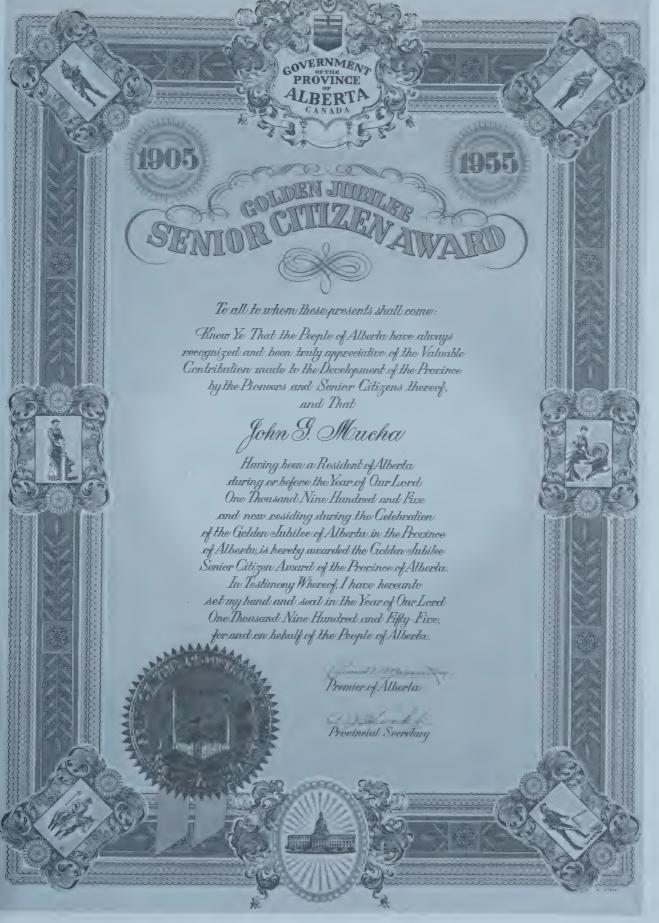


Curley VanLeary turning the ice cream freezer at the home of P.B. Callaway in late 1920's.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS



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FRIDAY and SATURDAY, FEB. 6 and 7 -"TARZAN'S SAVAGE FURY" Lex Barker - Dorothy Hart

MONDAY and TUESDAY, FEB. 9 and 10 -"HERE COMES THE MARINES" with the Bowery Boys — and "YUKON MANHUNT" Curly Grant - Margaret Field

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, FEB. 11 and 12 — "ANYONE SEEN MY GAL" Piper Laurie - Rock Hudson

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, FEB. 13 and 14 - "FORT OSAGE" Rod Cameron - Jane Nigh

MONDAY and TUESTAY, FER. 10 and 17 ... "ST. BENNY THE DIP" Dick Haylas - Nina roch

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, FEB. 18 and 19 — "THE RETURN OF THE TEXAN"

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, FEB. 20 and 21 —
"HURRICANE SMITH"
Yvonne de Carlo · John Ireland

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ELEPHANT BRAND FERTILIZER

W. L. Perley

Licensed Auctioneer

Thorsby

The Rexall Store

Jos. R. Ruzicka

PRESCRIPTIONS - DRUGS STATIONERY - JEWELLERY FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Phone 14

Thorsby

AUTHORIZED PHILLIPS DEALER Phone 58 Thorsby

959

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.	
Whereas Micheal Lerke	ki
tornerly of Palicia, in Aust	na .
	T 50 R 20 WH M
has complied with the several requirements of the Natural the period of three years;	crict of Northern Alberta, in the said Territories, ization Act. and has duly resided in Canada for
AND WHEREAS the certificate granted to the said	incheal Tereleoki
under the Tenth Section of the said Act has been presente preme Court of the North-West Territories, and I am satisfactors	d to me, the undersigned, a Judge of the Sufficient that the facts in the said certificate are true,
THIS IS THEREFORE to certify to all whom it said Act. Micheal Ter	
has become naturalized as a British Subject and is entitle privileges, and is subject to all obligations to which a natu- within Canada, with this qualification, that he shall not which he was a citizen subject previous to the date hereof- ceased to be a citizen subject of that State, in pursuance of convention to that effect.	d to all political and other rights, powers and aral born British Subject is entitled or subject then within the limits of the Foreign State of be deemed to be a British Subject unless he has of the laws thereof or in pursuance of a treaty or
GIVEN under my hand, and Seal at	Monthin in the said Territories
this day of	De cen ber A.D. 190 3
\	North-West Territories.
I do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of	the Certificate of Naturalization issued to
the above named allen, the A. D. 190 , and which Certificate is now filed on record	day of December
Dated at Edmonton this	day of December 190 3
Total Deputy Clerk of t	he Supreme Court of the North-West Territories orthern Alberta Judicial District.

Sir, I have the honour to inform you that your application Ilw. for homestead patent for the... Section 18 Township H9 Range 74. .M., received the Commissioner's approval on the 18 wal and to send you the enclosed certificate of recommendation. I have the honour to be, Your obedient servant, PERLEY G. KEYES, TAX RECEIPT 746 LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No. 489 No

Received from . M. I - Jacky

Tp

being Taxes due to Lear Improvement District No. 189, 1 a the year 1917, on SR^{-1} Sec. 18 Tp. 79. Rice, 27 west of t

on . . . See Tp. . . Rge. west of the

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Taxes Corbon Year, 1917 \$ (QC)

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ARREARS \$ PENSITY ON ARREARS \$

Toru Tixes \$ 1.2. 5 y

Department of the Interior,

This Certificate is not valid unless countersigned by the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, or a Member of the Dominion Lands Board.

FORM E.



SEE UNDER PRINT FOR HISTORY OF PICTURE

THORSBY HOTEL

"The Place where Good Fellows Meet" COMFORT AND SERVICE

Phone 11

THORSBY ALBERTA

Santa .		AU SUN MON	GUST	- 1944	SAI CENTRALIA
	JULY - 1944 SIMIT WITT (*) SIMIT (*) SIMI		1 2	3 4	5 SEPTEMBER-1944 5 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1
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No.1.1931 PROVINCE OF ALBERTA LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT 25.7.4								
RECEIPT FOR TAXES								
RECEIVED FROM Mike Terlishi								
UI.								
the sum of KY DOLLAR!								
in payment of Taxes due Local Improvement District								
for the year 1905 on the following lands								
Dated at Color othis 3 Cday of 1900								
\$ 6 ac Sepretary-Treasurer								

Swift Canadian Co. No. 7964

Edmonton, Alberta

LIVE STOCK PURCHASE

Form E-82

Mr / d. Conly

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No.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Local Improvement Branch.

RECEIPT FOR TAXES

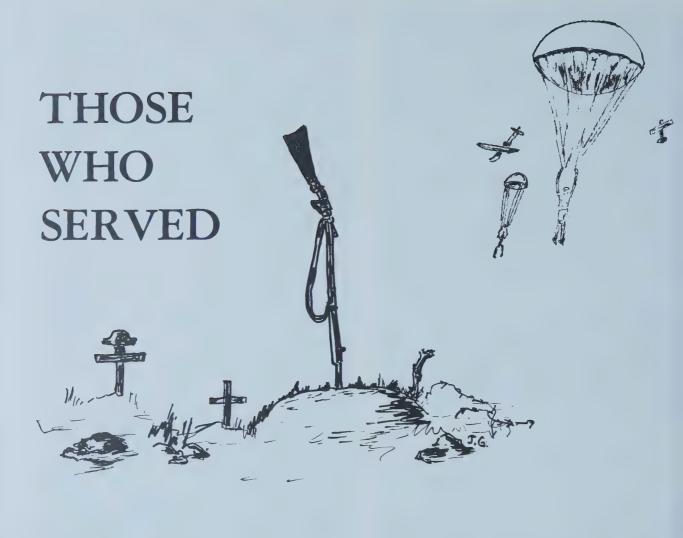
RECEIVED from	mike	erlichi	ot balm	nar_	the sum
		four	he year 1907	, in payment of	^c the taxes due
OCAL IMPROVEME	NT DISTRICT NO. 2	5 12f for t.	he year 1907	on the fo	ollowing land
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	m. ym.	die 18.	Jr. 49. Rg	12%.	£

SHOO I bis 17th day of August 1902

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\$ 1/0	· ·	
	Calmar, P.O., Alberta, A	19.4.2.
RECEIVED from	The late in the light in the second of the s	
o be applied in Payment of Taxes as fo	ollows: - Charge to In L destr	rt 16 c
	District of Liberty, No. 489	- 1/8
Municipal	District of Liberty, No. 489	
In case of Charge of Address or Ownershi	Assessment Roll Folio Cash Book Folio	·
Assessment No.	Part of Hook	
	Part of Sec. Lot Block Mer Rge	,
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Total Taxes		
	Secretary-T	
A penalty of 5 per cent, is added to the 1st day of July each year following	all unpaid taxes on the 16th December and 5 per one	ent. is added
ORIGINA CERTIFICATE OF R	ECTORD (MYC)	
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pag 64	Nr ser 39. sequentia reperin:	
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	PARENTES .	_
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Via L feft	1936 Level 1911Tauzah	The second division in

No. 1/9 TAX RECEIPT. The School District of Willow le reck	*
Received from Mike Terlecki the sum	of
being Taxes due on D. W. Sec. 18 Tp. 49 R.	Dollars 7
Meridian. Taxes current year, 19	,
Arr	ears, \$
Dated Now 9th 1904 E. Westle	axes, \$ 9.25









ROLL OF HONOUR



CANADIAN ARMY

BOER WAR — On Active Service

Barager, Bert Burgess, Lorne Gaulter, William McKay, Harry Sr. Rose, Basil

WORLD WAR I — On Active Service

**Killed on Active Service

Blood, James
Branton, Leonard
Breton, Lawrence
Breton, Douglas
Breton, Basil
Breton, Bill
Bray, Reginald Sr.
Bray, Reginald Jr.**
Bray, Aubrey**

Britton, Gerald Burroughs, Frank Burton, Sidney Connolly, Terrance Dowler, Herbert Dunlop, Austin** Forbes, Jack Gaulter, William Griffin, John Griffin, Arthur**
Hales, Robert
Hicks, George
Huggett, Arthur
Jolleff, Harry
Legeas, Victor**
Lepine, Alex
Lynn, Rusty
Matthews, William

Marion, Victor MacKay, Harry Sr. McKay, Harry Jr. MacCaulay, William McDonnell, William McBain, Andrew Sr. Neid, Frank Ohrn, Henry Phipps, Harry

Rixon, Sidney
Rickson, Al**
Saunders, Alex
Stevens, Gus
Shave, Sidney
Stults, Jack
Swanson, Arthur
Van Alstyne, Albert E.
Westlund, Albert
Zingle, Fred

Canadian Air Force

Rolston, John

ALLIED FORCE — U.S.A. — World War I

Cooper, Delbert (Army) Monnich, Robert (Navy) Strautman, Henry (Army)

WORLD WAR II

ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY — On Active Service

Berezowski, (Van Alstyne) Marjorie Chranowski, Adam Griffin, Jack Kelsey, (Wurban) Millie Kinasewich, William Malarchuk, Wasyl Samardzic, Robert Jeppesen, (Samardzic) Frances Zeiner, Earl

CANADIAN ARMY

*On Active Service
**Killed on Active Service

Adamic, Alex Allan, Vaughn** Anderson, Ray* Anderson, Roy Artindale, Karl* Artindale, Stanley* Armour, Charles* Bablitz, Arnold Bateman, Arnold* Baird, Henry*
Barager, Leeson*
Barager, William*
Barager, Russell*
Babiak, John
Bernes, Otto*
Bodlay, Clarence
Bodaly, William
Bodaly, Lloyd

Bottineau, Raymond*
Boddy, Walter*
Blazenko, Walter*
Bilou, Manuel
Branton, Ronald**
Branton, Gordon**
Branton, Kenneth*
Breton, Hugh*
Brewster, Walter*

Brewster, Jesse* Brewster, Brady Callaway, James* Calvert, Robert* Chrunik, John Clark, Derold* Coderre, Arnold David, Russel* Dahlbeck, Algot* Deatrich, Eugene* Dedio, Walter Demuynck, Marcel Dool, Metro Drewoth, Michael* Decoursey, Duke* Elson, Gerald* Engberg, Dennis Erickson, Raymond Erickson, Lawrence Fisher, John Forsberg, Tim** Forsberg, Everett Forshner, Wilbur* Forshner, George* Franko, Joseph Garrett, Terry* Gaulter, William* Gaulter, David* Grant, Robert Green, Gordon* Gilbert, Archie* Hansen, Herbert* Hanas, Walter Hankin, Myers* Halladay, John* Hamel, Joe* Helm, Ed.* Helgren, Henning Helfenstein, (Plysiuk) Freda* Mader, John* Helfenstein, Alvin* Helfenstein, Edwin* Hicks, (Dolling) Kathleen* Higham, Ed.* Higham, George* Horkulak, Mike

Jablonski, Raymond Joblinski, Russel* Johnson, Elmer* Johnson, Albert* Johnson, Leslie* Johnson, Lester* Johnson, Freeman Keaschuk, Steve* Kelsey, Fred* Klemky, Robert Kelsko (Schmidt) Violet* Knull, Max Knull, Robert Kozial, Albert Kuta, William Larson, Ernest* Larson, (Schauer) Palma* Lefsrud, Tony* Lepine, Alex* Lickoch, Tom* Lickoch, Joe* Lyka, Joe* Mathieson, Malcolm* Martin, John* Mankow, John* McLennan, Archie* MacKenzie, Arnold* McDonnell, Roderick*

McKeever, Harold* McKay, Elsie* Mealing, Geoffrey* Medisky, William Meincke, Donald* Magee, (Mottl) Cary* Morden, Bruce Modin, Floyd* Modin, Willard Moeller, Fred* Melin, Don Melin, Buddy* Melin, Frank* Mundy, Arthur Munden, Arnie* Myrhaugen, Gordon* Neid, Robert* Neid, William* Nystrom, Harvey** Neiman, Otto Neiman, Arnold Oscroft, Gordon* Ollenberg, William Pasmore, Kenneth* Pasula, Edward* Pasula, Luke* Pavlin, Tony* Pearson, Clair* Polok, John*

Pvrcz. Fred* Ross, David* Ryby, Steve Ruff, Norman Samardzic, Fred Sawchuk, Mike* Schauer, Elmer* Schauer, Lester** Schauer, Wesley* Scobie, William* Scobie, Pete* Scobie, Ed* Scott, Lyle* Schmidt, Leo Seidel, William* Smith, Ralph* Shave, Leslie** Shave, James* Shave, Sidney* Snider, George Schmidek, Art Sontag (Branton) Elsie* Sontag, Robert* Sulz, Emmanuel* Sulz, Alfred Sulz, Ben* Sommer, Ted Sommer, Bill Stults, Jack*

Stevens, Ed.* Suecroft, William* Sukeroff, Larry Shymansky, Mike Tabert (Arnold) Holly* Techer, Pete* Techer, Mike Techer, William* Terlesky, Paul* Tomaszewski, Mike* Tomaszewski, Frank* Tucker, Archie* Thompson, Floyd* Theriault, Lawrence Vath, Lewis Vadheim, Al* Van Alstyne, Albert E.* Van Volkenberg, Henry White, Frank* Wickstrom, Glen* Wickstrom, Roy* Wickstrom, Ingvar* Wickstrom, John** Wickstrom, Gus* Wilson, William* Williams, (Gilbert) Opal Wyley, Russell* Zeiner, Fred* Zingle, (Popik) Alvina*

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE — ON Active Service

Breton, David Brown, Arthur Boddy, Bud Burgess, Glover Callaway, Roger David, Paul Delameter, Kenneth

Delameter, Ronald Dorn, George Farrar, (Breton) Marie Franko, Stanley Holmgren, Ernest Holmgren, (Dowler) Betty Hubbard, Harry

Irvine, (Cooper) Lois Johnson, Hubert** Knox, Howard Knull, Harold Kilgour (Lewis) Una Kozial, Frank Leigh, Eric

Leigh, (Haire) Dorothy Lunde, Karl Mader, Jack Mader, Mary Madiuk, Sophia Madiuk, Arthur** McBain, Andy

McBain, Bill McDonnell, James Mealing, Stanley Medisky, Peter Medisky, John Melynchuk, John Moysa, William



Munden, Beresford Pankewics, Fred Pawlyk, Andrew Perdue, James** Picard, Phillip Popik, Steve Powell, Lloyd** Raitz, Edward Rice, Ruskin** Saunders, Allan

Schram, William Shilson, Lorimer Smith, De'Laurice Smith, Vernon Stults, Carl Sulz, Henry**
Terlesky, Art
Theriault, Frank
Van Alstyne, Albert F.
Voke, George

Woloshyn, John Zeiner, Robert Zingle, Dan Zarowny, Edward

MERCHANT MARINE

Lunde, Willie - Lost at sea

KOREAN WAR — On Active Service Army

Larson, Bernard**

Franko, Anthony

Kerr, Leonard

Schauer, Morris

Sieben, Joseph

PEACE TIME ARMED FORCES ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

Glunz, (Kasner) Lorraine Wurban, Alex

ARMY

Artindale, Donnelly

Dornan, Gordon

Dornan, John

Hay, Gordon

Shave, Vernon

Larson, Wayne

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

Dornan, Patrick Dornan, Howard Dunlop, Melvin Franko, Stanley Free, Peter Lyka, Edward Gitzel, Stanley — killed on duty

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE — Constables

Dornan, Edward Dornan, Patrick Dornan, Howard Fink, James Knull, Emil Killaly, Larry

King, Howard Schmolke, Harry



JOHN ROLSTON (5TH FROM RIGHT) FIRST MERCHANT IN THORSBY (CANADIAN AIR FORCE)

SPECIAL **EDITION**

The Kingston Whig-Standard

SPECIAL EDITION



onal Surrender Made To Allies at 8.41 p.m. Sunday

Pact Signed in School House Headquarters of Eisenhower; Lt.-Gen. Walter Bedell Smith Represents Allied Commander







413

ANESE SURRE ON ALLIES' TER

The Home Front

Here Is the Latest Situation in Canada On Wartime Regulations and Rationing

Russians Invade Japanese Island



Forgive Us, O Emperor

A decided only should be seen to the seen of the seen

WASHINGTON --- President Tru acceptance of surrender terms.

Petain's Case Goes to Jury

Victory Crowd Stones Victoria Liquor Store

Plan Holiday ... Superforts Hit In Dominion

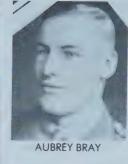
A Heavy Blow

Japanese Delay Kept World Anxious And In Confusion

BOER WAR WORLD WAR I



WILLIAM MATTHEW





WILLIAM McDONNELL



JAMES BLOOD



LORNE BURGES



BASIL BRETON



WILLIAM MacCAULAY



ALEX SAUNDERS



ROBERT HALES



WILLIAM GAULTER



HARRY, McKAY, Sr.



HARRY McKAY, Jr.



ALBERT WESTLUND



GERALD BRITTON



FRANK BURROUGHS



LEONARD BRANTON



ALBERT E. VAN ALSTYNE



ARTHUR GRIFFIN

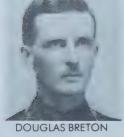


SIDNEY SHAVE



ROBERT MONNICH









JACK STULTS

ARTHUR HUGGETT



ALEX LEPINE



HERBERT DOWLER

W.W. II ARMY JOINED ACTIVE FORCES

WORLD **WARII**



FRANCES (SAMARDZIC)
JEPPESEN



ADAM CHRANOWSKI



ROBERT SAMARDZIC



JACK GRIFFIN



MARJORIE (VAN-ALSTYNE) BEREZOWSKI



MILLIE (WURBAN) KELSEY



WILLIAM WILSON



ELMER JOHNSON



JOHN MADER



HARVEY NYSTROM



LITHERIAULT



GEORGE RAE



WALTER BREWSTER



GORDON GREEN



ARTHUR MUNDY



VIOLET (SCHMIDT) KLESKO





RUSSEL DAVID



KARL ARTINDALE



PETE SCOBIE



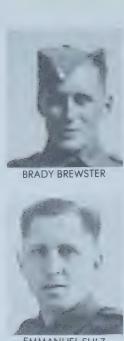
WALTER BODDY



FRED PYRCZ



TONY LEFSRUD









WESLEY SCHAUER



GEORGE SNIDER



JIM SHAVE



RAYMOND ERICKSON



EDWIN HELFENSTEIN



ALVIN HELFENSTEIN



HENRY BAIRD

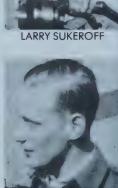


INGVAR WICKSTROM



ELMER SCHAUER





ERNEST LARSON



EDWARD HELM





FLOYD THOMPSON



TOM LICKOCH



RUSSEL BARAGER



LEESON BARAGER



RODERICK McDONNELL





MYERS HANKIN



OPAL (GILBERT) WILLIAMS





WILLIE LUNDE



GORDON OSCROFT





GEORGE HIGHAM





LUKE PASULA



CHARLES ARMOUR



JOE LICKOCH



ART SCHMIDEK



RAY ANDERSON



WILLIAM SEIDEL



TIM FORSBERG



FREEMAN JOHNSON



CARY (MOTTL) MAGEE



ELSIE McKAY



HOLLY (ARNOLD) TABERT



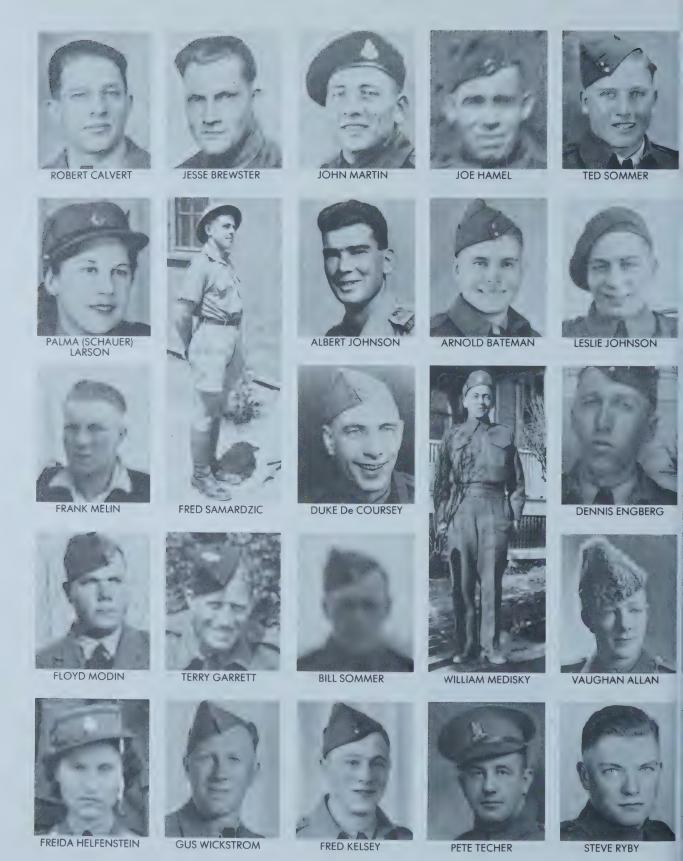
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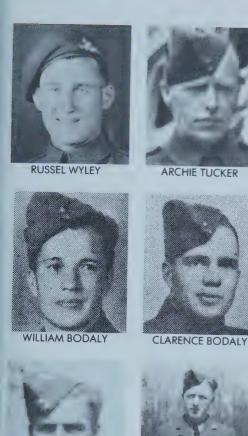


ED HIGHAM



WILLIAM BARAGER





















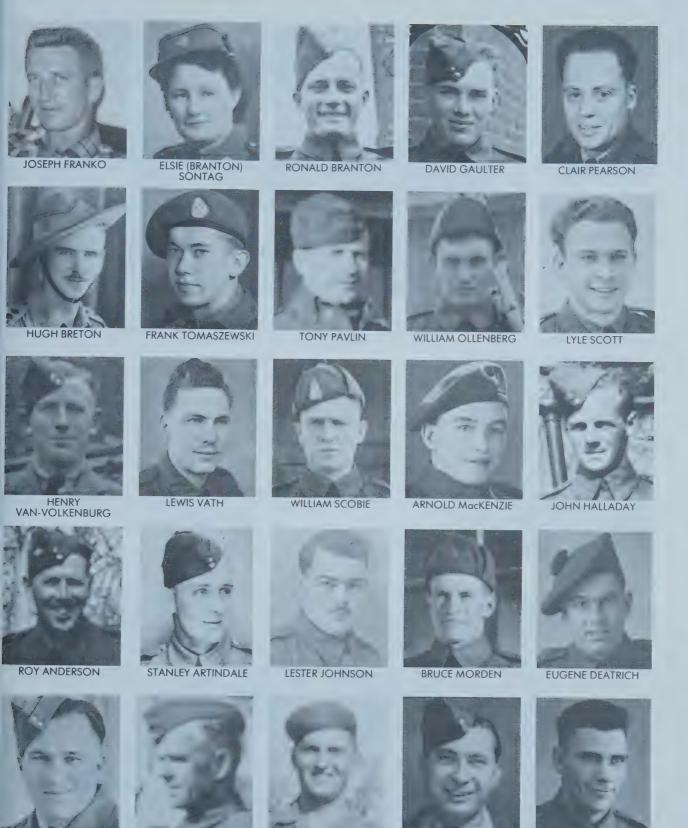
GORDON BRANTON











HENNING HELGREN

MICHAEL TOMASZEWSKI

RAYMOND BOTTINEAU

JOE LYKA

ARCHIE GILBERT



KENNETH WHALEN



The City of Regina #426 Thunderbird Squadron posed under a Lancaster Bomber prior to an operational flight over Berlin in Jan. 1944. Taken at Linton- on- Ouse. L. to R. Charles Hill, Ken Gilkenson, Dave Dakin, Thomas P. Atkenson, Chuck Harrison, Babs Barker and Roger Callaway, of Thorsby.



Sgt. Roger Callaway on left and friends in R.C.A.F. flight training attire at Trenton, Ont. June 1942



Same crew on top the Lancaster Bomber at Linton- on - Ouse, Yorkshire, Eng.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE WAR TIME



CARL STULTS



HAROLD KNULL





GEORGE DORN



EDWARD ZAROWNY





ALBERT VAN ALSTYNE



LORIMER SHILSON



UNA (LEWIS) KILGOUR



BETTY (DOWLER) HOLMGREN



ANDREW PAWLYK



KARL LUNDE



ART BROWN



JAMES McDONNELL



HUBERT JOHNSON



WILLIAM SCHRAM



FRED PANKEWICS



ERNEST HOLMGREN



BERESFORD MUNDEN



LOIS (COOPER) IRVINE



DELAURICE SMITH



PETER MEDISKY





ANDY McBAIN



FRANK THERRIAULT



ROGER CALLAWAY





JOHN MEDISKY



STEVE POPIK



JAMES PERDUE



ARTHUR TERLESKY



ARTHUR MADIUK





JOHN ROLSTON



PAUL DAVID



ALLAN SAUNDERS



DAVID BRETON



HENRY SULZ



GLOVER BURGESS





MORRIS SCHAUER



BERNARD LARSON



ANTHONY FRANKO



LEONARD KERR



STANLEY FRANKO



STANLEY GITZEL



GORDON HAY



VERNON SHAVE



WAYNE LARSON



PEACE

DONNELLY ARTINDALE



JOHN DORNAN



GORDON DORNAN



ALEX WURBAN



LORRAINE GLUNZ



ED LYKA



MELVIN DUNLOP



PATRICK DORNAN



HOWARD DORNAN

THORSBY ARMY CADET CORPS

by Mr. Ed Raitz

The Thorsby Branch of the Canadian Legion initiated the formation of the Thorsby Army Cadet Corps (Signals Squadron No. 2508) in 1954, under the sponsorship of the Strawberry School Division. Regular parades were held in the basement-auditorium of the old high school building. Ed Raitz served as Chief instructor with Wm. (Bill) Moysa, Thorsby School vice-principal, Robert (Bob) Dickson, principal of Warburg School, and Walter Wynnyk, principal of Breton School forming the instructional cadre. The cadet corps met weekly and included boys ranging in age from 14 to 18 who were resident in the school division.



JOE SIEBEN



LT. KOZAR AND THORSBY CADETS



CAPTAIN'S MOYSA AND WYNNYK WITH CADETS ENJOYING LUNCH 1963 EXERCISE



ALLEN AND HARVEY BABIAK



CADET INSPECTION — 1955



EMIL KNULL

R.C.M.P.



HARRY SCHMOLKE



JAMES FINK



LARRY KILLALY



HOWARD KING



LEFT TO RIGHT -BROTHERS: EDWARD, PATRICK AND HOWARD DORNAN

THE DISC IDENTITY

When I was born I got the name
Of Smith, Augustus John,
And when a soldier I became
And put my khaki on,
I felt as proud as Punch could be
When some old Sergeant said to me,
"You're now a separate entity,
And here's your DISC-identity."

When on a list he entered me,
My bosom swelled with pride.
"You've twenty-two, six, seven three,"
"Yes, Sergeant," I replied,
"When you become a casulatee,
You mustn't get mislaid, you see."
In order to prevent it, he
Numbered my DISC-identity.

He asked me if my Kirk was old,
Or if I was R. C.
I answered like a soldier bold,
That I was C. of E.
"I've got to know, my lad," said he,
"In case you have to buried be."
And just to show he meant it, he
Endorsed my DISC-identity.

And then I put on a string,
And took it to my breast,
"Now stick to it like anything,"
The Sergeant made behest;
"A prisoner immediatelee
Is shot on sight unless," said he,
"When called on to present it, he
Can show his DISC-identity.

And here in my dug-out I am
Enjoying M and V
And biscuits Army, Damson Jam,
And tea with S.R.D.
How sick those chaps at home must be,
Why couldn't they be brave like me?
A fellow's a nonentity
Without a DISC-identity.

R.M.E.



CANADIAN ARMY UNITS ON PARADE



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE UNIT ON PARADE



Sgt. S.D. Ross emerging from gas chamber at training grounds on Vancouver Island while making an army film. He was stationed on the Island with the Edmonton Fusiliers.



CANADIAN WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS. UNIT ON PARADE



WOMEN'S DIVISION RCAF UNIT ON PARADE



ENTER GERMANY (1945)



WHAT SIGN?



DANISH CHIMNEY SWEEP AND CANADIAN ARMY CAPTAIN, DENMARK — 1945



ROYAL AIR FORCE (TACTICAL) LORRYS WORLD WAR II



TEA TIME BELGIUM — 1944



CANADIAN FIELD KITCHEN IN ENGLAND

UNKNOWN GRAVES

Clustered close in wild confusion,
Are set a dozen shell torn mounds,
No cross or sign to mark their mean,
No wreathes to tell a longing heart,
That there may rest, the loved one sought;
Amidst the weeds and grasses rank,
Shaded deep, with spreading hawthorn hedge,
That blooms in glorious pink array,
Shedding thick its baby rosettes,
On the graves of "unknown soldiers" there.
When you're seeking out your loved one,
In the battle fields of Flanders,
Search not only in the grave yards, where whice

Search not only in the grave yards, where whitely gleaming crosses

Stretch as armies of a phantom host,

Each cross well marked with name and rank, Each mound all free and neat from weeds, And paths between each row and row: Seek not, only, in these armies of the dead, But rather look amongst those other mounds, That lie all huddled 'midst the poppies there, Shaded deep with spreading hawthorn bough, Hidden almost by the wild flowers blooming; They are there, in many hundreds, all unmarked: If you should doubt, which is your own, Put a posy, on, just any one you see, And weep, if you must weep at all. Beside that grave, that you may call your own, Tend it carefully, from year to year, Treat it just as though it were your loved one's; For there are thousands of these lonely graves, And ALL belong to some dear lonely heart.

L.D. BRETON



IN GERMANY 1945 TRUCK WITH RCAF INSIGNIA



F.W.D. 10 TON ARMY TRUCK WITH 30' SEMI-TRAILER



FRANCE 1944 — PICTURES FROM CAPTURED CAMERA

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

CHARTER MEMBERS PIONEER BRANCH #144, ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Charter dated July 17th, 1940

Alexander Lepine

John Griffin

Robert Hales

William, Matthews

Frank Neid

Malcolm Mathieson

Delbert Cooper

Harry McKay Jr.

Albert E. Van Alstyne

Harry McKay, Sr.

Charles Stevens

Geoffrey Mealing

Hugh Wright

William Breton

Robert Monnich

CHARTER MEMBERS LADIES' AUXILIARY TO PIONEER BRANCH #144, ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Charter dated January 30th, 1941

Lorna Breton

Winifred Spindler

Martha Mealing

Elizabeth Wright

Ethel Scott

Ada Matthews

Elizabeth Connolly

Hetti Rixson

May McKay

Jennie Griffin

Ivy Van Alstyne

Annette Seal

Margaret Gaulter

Frances Levers

Helen Ohrn

THE LEGION IN THORSBY

By Anthony Lefsrud

On the seventeenth day of July, 1940, in pursuance of the Authority and Powers granted by Letters Patent under the Companies Act of Canada, the Canadian Legion through its Dominion Executive Council did constitute and appoint Messers: Alexander Lepine, John Griffin, Robert E. Hales, William Alfred Mathews, Frank Edwin Neid, Malcolm Mathieson, Delbert Cooper, Harry McKay, Jr., Albert Edwin Van Alstyne, Harry McKay, Sr., Charles A. Stevens, Geoffrey Robert Mealing, Hugh Harold Wright, William C. Breton, Robert Clinton Monnich, together with other duly qualified persons, with them associated at Thorsby, Alberta, to be a Branch of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League (B.E.S.L.) and to be known as Pioneer (Alberta No. 144) Branch under the jurisdiction of the Alberta Command of the Canadian Legion.

The Charter Members of Pioneer Branch--veterans of World War I--were, in 1946, joined by veterans of World War II. However, since the records relating to this period are not avilable, an accurate account of the names of the new members is very much a matter of conjecture. Yet, it is recalled that Robert E. Hales was the President; Mrs. Mary Mader, Secretary; Harry Hubbard, Treasurer.

Unfortunately, in 1948 - though without relinquishment of the Branch Charter-- the members of Pioneer Branch suspended activities for an indefinite period of time. But that was not the finish of the Legion in Thorsby — far from it.

At 8:30 p.m., on the twenty eighth day of April, 1952, in the Club Room of the Thorsby Curling Rink, under the chairmanship of Ray. H. Anderson, a meeting was convened with a view to reviving Pioneer Branch #144.

Ray Anderson was unanimously elected President; Edward Raitz, Ist. Vice-President; Alvin A. Helfenstein, 2nd. Vice-President; Anthony (Tony)



Lefsrud, Secretary; Dr. M. Hankin, Treasurer; Algot I Dahlbeck, Sgt. at Arms; Steve Popik, Chairman of the Entertainment Comm.; Peter Medisky, Albert F. Van Alstyne and Fred Pyrcz, Membership Comm.

However, it was not until June 16, 1952, that the named officers were installed by the Provincial President of the Royal Canadian Legion, George E. Gleave.

In 1954, on the seventeenth day of May, the Branch decided to purchase a three-acre plot of land,



Legion Members of Pioneer Branch 144 at Remembrance Day Service Thorsby Community Centre —



Legion Delegates of Alberta and Northwest Territories Command marching at opening ceremonies of the Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Convention in Edmonton, June, 1978



Legion, Pioneer Branch #144 hut Thorsby, sold and being moved to Vern Muth's property as store house, 1977. Hut was originally Dahlgren school house, located southeast of Calmar.

on the north edge of Thorsby, from Cecil Summers, at his price of \$500.00, to be the site of the proposed Legion Hut.

As it became evident that the purchasing, together with the moving of an already constructed building would be cheaper than building a new Hut, the Dahlgren School, near Calmar, was purchased from the Strawberry School Division for \$550.00 and moved to the newly acquired site, and renovated.

A gift (which in later years turned out to be a "jack pot") was received by the Branch, in 1955, from John Robert (Jack) Stults, in the form of 60 acres of land.

It should be noted that in the "fifties" the Dominion Command decided to discontinue referring

to the Royal Canadian Legion as the British Empire Service League.

Father Donald Augustine MacLellan was installed as Chaplain to Pioneer Branch, #144, in 1954 (an office he held for 13 years); meanwhile the first of a long series of annual November 11th, Remembrance Day services was held in the Thorsby Community Centre, in 1958.

For a second time, a Ladies Auxiliary to Pioneer Branch was organized in 1959. (An account of the formation and the activities of the said Auxiliary appears elsewhere in this book).

Among the various community activities, as well as Legion projects, which have been of concern to the



New executive installed, Pioneer Br. #144. Royal Canadian Legion, 1963. Back Row L to R Comrades Alvin Helfenstein, Sgt. at Arms; Arnold MacKenzie, Treasurer; Tony Lefsrud, Secretary; Wm. Rourke — installing officer; Ed. Overall — Zone Commander. Front Row — L to R Al Vadheim, Past Pres.; Algot Dahlbeck, President; Albert Van Alstyne, 1st Vice Pres.; Jack Stults, 2nd Vice Pres.



At a dinner in the Thorsby Community Centre sponsored by Legion Br. #144 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Royal Canadian Legion. Provincial Command Past President Chapman presenting Legion Life Member A.E. Van Alstyne with a congratulatory message from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Comrade David Ross at right.





Branch through the years was the local Cadet Corps (inactive at the time of writing).

The first meeting leading to the initiation of the Cadet Corps was held in the welding shop of the Legion President, Ray Anderson.

Edward Raitz, the local high school principal, together with a cadre of officers, comprising; William Moysa, Walter Wynnyk of Breton, and Robert Dickson of Warburg, assumed command of the Corps.

Upon the departure of officers Raitz and Moysa from Thorsby, the corps was placed under the command of Frank Kozar: while, after the combining of the Thorsby and the Calmar troops, the leadership was assumed by Randy Sauve of Calmar, and later by Joseph Sieben of Thorsby.

Also worthy of mention is the Legion sponsorship, for a few years, of Track and Field at the Thorsby Schools under the coaching of John Elson, an

Honorary member of Pioneer Branch, as well as a local school teacher.

Pioneer Branch #144 has not only conducted annual Poppy Campaigns in aid of disabled, needy Canadian War Veterans; it has conducted several Poliomyelitis Fund Drives.

At the height of the epidemic of that dreaded paralysis of the spinal cord, the Branch presented a wheel chair to one "polio" victim; a typewriter to another; and financial assistance to the parents of yet other victims.

In fact, Pioneer Branch, #144, has assisted in various areas, through the years, with Christmas hampers for bachelor War veterans; annual scholarship awards for top, Thorsby grade 10 students; benches, plus money toward the purchase of a television set for Clover Leaf Manor, Warburg; financial assistance for the Thorsby High School





football team; a pledge of a sizable sum for the proposed Thorsby swimming pool; plus donations for various other worthy causes.

We must not overlook the sponsorship of the essay contests among local school pupils--under the

guidance of Olga Chranowski.

In these contests the following named students have accounted for themselves admirably, not only at the Branch, the Zone, the District, and the Provincial, but even at the Dominion level; In 1975, James Fitzowich ranked first in both the Dominion and the Provincial contests; and Dawn Zingle second provincially; in 1976, Tracy Stoddard, first in both the Dominion and the Provincial; and Gregory Powlik second provincially; in 1977, Karen Zurek, first in the Provincial and second in the Dominion.

The year 1970 was significant for Pioneer Branch. That was the year Alberta's Lieutenant Governor, Grant McEwan, unveiled an impressive cenotaph, presented to the Branch by Alvin A. Helfenstein.

This monument, of which the village of Thorsby might well be proud, had previously been presented to Alvin by Engineering Specialties, Edmonton, in

recognition of services rendered.

Through the years the presidency of Pioneer Branch has been held by; Ray Anderson, 1952-'62; Al Vadheim, 1962-'63; Algot Dahlbeck, 1963-'65; Albert F. Van Alstyne, 1965-'67; Jack Stultz, 1967-'68; Alvin A. Helfenstein, 1968-'71; Walter G. Brewster, 1971-'73; David Ross, 1973-'77; Arnold MacKenzie 1977-'79; Algot Dahlbeck 1979-.

Meanwhile, Tony Lefsrud has served as Branch secretary, continuously since 1952; and the following have served as treasurers; Dr. Myers Hankin, Edward Raitz, Arnold MacKenzie, and Albert VanAlstyne.

Since selling their hut in 1974 the members have conducted their meetings in the Thorsby Action Centre.

The above account (though perhaps incomplete or inadequare) is the history of Pioneer Branch, #144, of the Royal Canadian Legion up to publication of this history book.

LADIES AUXILIARY TO **LEGION PIONEER BRANCH #144**

by secretary Ruby Brewster

In 1941 the charter members were, Mesdames Lorna Breton, Winnifred Spindler, Martha Mealing, Elizabeth Wright, Ethel Scott, Ada Matthews, Elizabeth Connolly, Hette Rixson, May McKay, Jennie Griffin, Ivy Van Alstyne, Annette Seal, Margaret Gaulter, Francis Lever, and Miss Helen Ohrn. How long this group of ladies kept working I do not know, but they had ceased before the Legion started up again after the war.



Ladies executive 1977 L. to R. Gwen Ross, Ruby Brewster and Joyce Gaulter

We started on April 16, 1959, with Mrs. Delores Kozar as President, Mrs. Frieda Helfenstein as secretary, and Mrs. Doreen MacKenzie as treasurer.

The ladies who joined then were; Mrs. Joyce Gaulter, Mrs. Laura Smith, Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Anderson, Mrs. Gwen Ross, Mrs. Genevieve Dahlbeck, Mrs. Pat Lefsrud, Mrs. Margaret Otto, Mrs. Bertha Van Alstyne, Mrs. Ada Matthews, Miss Betty Matthews, Mrs. Kay Hicks, Mrs. Mary Polok, Mrs. Delores Kozar, Mrs. Doreen MacKenzie, Mrs. Frieda Helfenstein, Mrs. Lydia Helfenstein, and myself (Ruby Brewster). Mrs. Patricia Melesko, Mrs. Lillian Vadheim, and Mrs. Lillian Grant joined shortly after. Through the years there were, Mrs. Gladys Kuzyk, Mrs. Olga Halladay, Mrs. Jean Goin, Mrs. Eileen Christenson, Mrs. Barbara Peterson, Mrs. McLennan, Mrs. Olive Halladay, and Mrs. Rosemary Elson.

We were very active when we first started. We catered for weddings; \$1.25 for a cold meal, and \$1.50

for a hot one.

We also served meals and sometimes lunches to anyone who came to the Legion hut after the November 11th services.



Pioneer Legion Branch Auxiliary members at Christmas party 1975



Installation of Pioneer Br. #144 Legion Auxiliary officers 1963. Standing L to R Doreen Mackenzie Ruby Brewster, Lil Vadheim, Frieda Helfenstein, Installing Officer Doris Kirkwood, Mary Polok, Pat Lefsrud, Laura Smith, Joyce Gaulter, Seated L to R Sandy Melesko, Irene Grant and Gladys Kuzyk.

At Christmas time we served the men and families a turkey meal with all the trimmings. There were also candy bags for the children.

The Auxiliary helped the men when they started having Whist Card parties, by serving lunch. Mothers' Day Teas with baked goodies for sale and sewing were held in Perley's office, and we raffled quilts.

In Sept. 1962 we sponsored a Remembrance Day eassy contest which we still have. It was for Grade 6, 7, and 8. The prize is \$10.00 for the best one. The Legions across Canada also sponsor essays. We have had some of our students win the zone, provincial and dominion contests.

The men sold the hut in 1976, so we are not very active. As the men don't need assistance we have disposed of our kitchen equipment. The women who have held office are: Presidents: Mrs. Kozar, Myself, Mrs. Vadheim, Mrs. Helfenstein, Mrs. Gaulter, Mrs. Mary Polok, and our present one, Mrs. Gwen Ross; Secretaries: Mrs. Helfenstein, Mrs. Kuzyk, Mrs. B. Peterson, Mrs. O. Halladay, and Mrs. Gaulter; Treasurers: Mrs. Mackenzie was our treasurer from 1959 until 1972. I've taken over the treasurer and secretary jobs as we are not very active, but we do not want to lose our charter. The men still need our help on Nov. 11, and we still have our Christmas dinners.

PIONEER BRANCH #144 ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION DEDICATES CENOTAPH

The day was perfect on June 21st, 1970, when Dr. Grant MacEwan unveiled the Legion Cenotaph. The proceedings began with a parade from the Community Centre to the Cenotaph. A pipe and brass band from Edmonton, members of the Legion, Lions' club, Cadets, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies and the C.G.I.T. marched in the parade.

Tony Lefsrud, master of ceremonies, called upon Alvin Helfenstein, president of Pioneer Legion



Dedication of Legion Memorial Cenotaph at Thorsby, June, 1970. His Honor Lieut. Gov. Dr. Grant McEwan at microphone, Comrade David Ross and Bugler David Neuman in background. The Cenotaph was presented to the Village of Thorsby by Comrade Alvin Helfenstein, of Pioneer branch #144 Royal Canadian Legion

Branch, to give an address of welcome. Mr. Helfenstein stated that the monument was donated to the Legion Branch by Engineering Specialties Company and would serve as a memorial to those who paid the supreme sacrifice so that we may be free.

William Gordon, the Provincial President of the Royal Canadian Legion, spoke briefly on the significance of the memorial.

The Rev. R. Hetherington led in the singing of the hymn "Oh God Our Help in Ages Past". Dr. Grant MacEwan, Lieutenant Governor spoke, stating that, "Sentiment was essential for an all-round existence, it makes the world go round. History speaks loudly and clearly and we must hearken to it if we are to have an acceptable present and future." He then, with the assistance of Mr. William Gordon, unveiled the cenotaph. The inscription on its plaque reads, "In

Memoriam" "Lest we forget our brave comrades who gave their lives for their King and country". "Boer War; 1914-1918; 1939-1945 and Korean wars. They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old".

The Rev. Robert Hetherington gave the prayer of dedication and David Neuman played "The Last Post"

and "Reveille". There was a two minute silence and the laying of wreaths.

"The cenotaph stands as an everlasting thanks from us to those who paid the supreme sacrifice", stated Mr. Lefsrud.





VILLAGE OF THORSBY

Office of Secretary-Treasurer THORSBY - ALBERTA

> TOC 2PO Telephone: 789-3935

April 1979

The Village of Thorsby, and other communities that have their histories and stories recorded in this historical book, would like to make special acknowledgement to Mrs. Gwendolyn Ross of Thorsby for the unceasing labour and devotion to the publication of this book and to her able and faithful staff and to those who gave most generously of their time for their wonderful support and co-operation in this endeavour.

They did their utmost to show by way of photos, stories and records how our parents, grandparents and great grandparents and all those that followed and have helped to improve our lot, carved the homes that we enjoy today from the unbroken prairies and virgin forests. There were sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, yes, even fathers and mothers who, when the call came during the three wars, the Boar War, the First World War, 1914 - 1918, and the Second World War, 1939 - 1945, did volunteer their services and took up arms to defend the rights of others, the homes they laboured so hard to build and the land they came to love.

They left us a heritage to be proud of.

A sincere "Thank You" from a grateful community.

Mranowski Mayor

Teona Zingel Councillor Barbara Senio Councillor

Councillor

Bordon Sener Peter & Bougs Councillor

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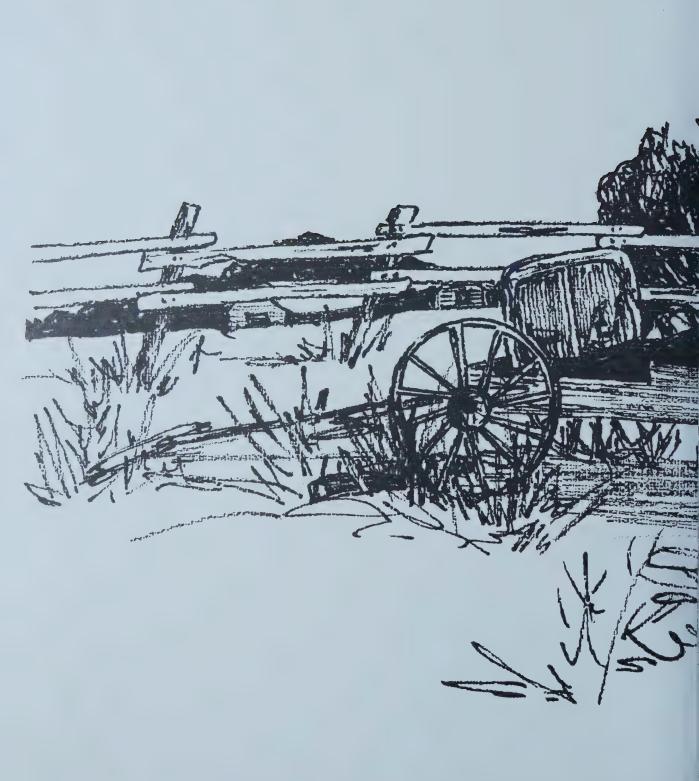
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